

# The Messenger

## From the Pastor's Desk: Pioneers of Fresh Expressions



Rapid and dramatic changes are occurring in our world. More parents are raising their children alone. More grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Sons and daughters are living longer with their parents. Families are connecting via social media. People are marrying later and remaining married fewer years. Drones are patrolling the skies and companies are promising to use them for quick deliveries. There are now more Uber cars than yellow cabs in New York City. People walk down the streets and hallways with their noses in their smart phones. Most of us are so dependent on our GPS that we can no longer find our way to a new location. People are spending more time at work, despite our time-saving devices. More people work on Sundays. Fewer people are still living in their hometown. Generation

gaps are getting wider and wider. Taboos, values and morals are in flux.

There are the religious trends that began decades ago and seem to be picking up speed:

- **A few churches are getting larger while most are getting smaller.**
- **Many people now see Sunday as "family day," not "church day," and fewer people feel guilty about not being in worship.**
- **More and more Americans are seemingly interested in spirituality but not Christianity.**

Those who grew up in a Christian home and a loving church, along with those who live in one of the remaining pockets of the country where the cultural expectation is still that people should go to Sunday worship, are the exception, not the

rule.

Most people do not live in communities where church is the norm, and increasing numbers of people have no history with the Christian faith or the church. Certainly the same is true in New Castle.

It's a Different World.

Leslie Newbigin asked, "Can your kind of church change your kind of world? If you cannot answer with a strong affirmation, don't write off your church; encourage a pioneering leader or two in your congregation to creatively and intentionally engage people who are beyond the walls." That is what we are working to do in "Opening Doors."

No matter how effective a congregation is, no single church can be everything for everyone. Yet a congregation can use its strengths to become a fresh expression of church. It doesn't require the en-

*(Continued on page 5)*

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### DECEMBER SERMONS & WORSHIP:

- **December 6**  
*Christmas Musical*
- **December 13**  
*Luke 3:7-18*
- **December 20**  
*Luke 1:39-56*
- **December 24**  
*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
at 7:00PM*
- **December 27**  
*Luke 2:41-52*

## December “Opening Doors” Spotlight: Children

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this month, let's not only remember that special baby born to save the world, but let's join as a church family to celebrate all children.

Beginning on **Sunday, December 6**, bring your family and friends to celebrate the children right here at Clen-Moore as they lead worship in the annual Children's Musical. An opportunity to contribute to needy children in our community will be available after the service through a homemade meatloaf dinner fund-

raiser. Eat in, take out or just give.

On **Saturday, December 12**, we are excited to 'Open the Doors' to the community by sponsoring a special presentation, A Circle of Friends Choirs (*see below*). A free will offering will benefit children through the Backpack Feeding Program.

On **Sunday, December 20th**, we ask for donations to Warm Feet and Warm Hearts. Bring a pair of children's boots and follow the footsteps to the manger. As we share in the

warmth of the birth of Jesus, we can share his love and warmth with children in the community.

Help is always welcomed to teach Sunday School, hold babies in the nursery, and join in youth activities here at Clen Moore. God provides many ways that we can open our doors and our hearts to children.

Consider where you can serve as we continue to Open Our Doors! And may you be blessed this Christmas season!

## Holly Brunch

Attention ladies of Clen-Moore Church, young, old, and young at heart: You are invited to begin the Christmas Season by attending our annual Holly

Brunch: **Saturday, December 5 at 9:30 A.M. in the Parlor.**

The JOY in the Season will be shared by speaker Ginny

Massaro. We will also sing Christmas carols.

Please RSVP to the Church Office by Wednesday, Dec. 2.

## Meatloaf Dinner

The Christian Fellowship Sunday School class will hold its annual meatloaf dinner on Sunday, December 6th, immediately following the worship service. A free-will offering will be accepted; proceeds will go to our local mission work of helping families in need at Christmas.

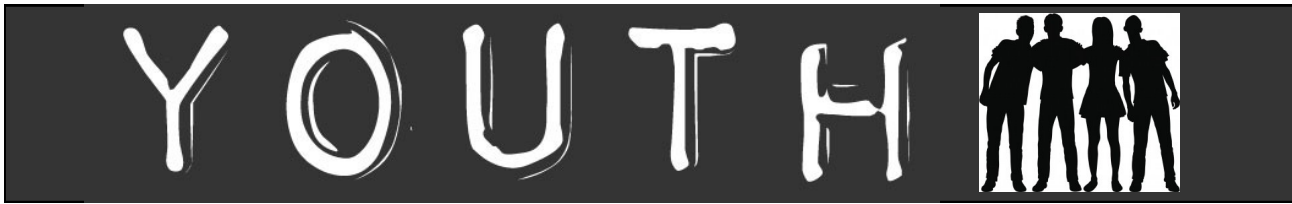
## A Circle of Friends Choirs

Clen-Moore is excited to host **A Circle of Friends Choirs** on Saturday December 12 at 7 PM with a 90-minute upbeat Christmas concert. A Circle of Friends Choirs brings together more than 50 singers and musicians of all denominations who share their faith in God with others through Christian and secular music.

This concert is free and open to the public and will benefit

the Lawrence County Backpack Feeding Program through a free will offering. This program provides a backpack full of nutritious, non-perishable food for nearly 500 Lawrence County school children to take home each weekend. For some, this will be the only food they will have to eat until they return to school on Monday.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert.



### **C.2G.S.(Connect, Grow, Go, Serve) -**

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School class is taking a break from our study of non-Christian religions and the occult to focus on devotions for the season of Advent and Christmas. We will return to our study thereafter.

Also, The Christy's will host a dinner over Christmas break for our Sunday School Class and the FlipSide youth.

### **K.F.C. & FlipSide -**

**Saturday, December 5th,** is our Christmas Musical Dress

Rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Sunday, December 6th, is the Christmas Musical during worship (*see page 8*) followed by a luncheon, which all are invited to attend.

### **Sunday, December 20th -**

This is our Christmas Party! 4:00 - 6:00 PM in the Youth Room.

We will write Christmas letters to our Shut-Ins while listening to festive music, sharing hot chocolate and other Christmas goodies, reading the Christmas

Story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and discussing what Christmas is really about.

In addition, we will play some games and maybe watch a quick Christmas flick:.

**Christmas Break -** We will pick a movie to see together (possibly Star Wars). Stay tuned for an email with details as the time draws nearer.

## **Health Ministry**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 6 -** Blue Christmas service at New Wilmington Presbyterian- details will be in the Sunday bulletins.

**December 15 -** Blood Pressure screening at PrimeTimers meeting - 9:00am

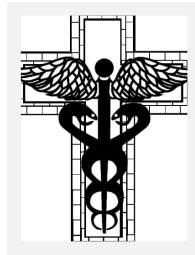
**December 20 -** Blood Pressure screening at Church Breakfast - 8:30am

### **HEALTH NOTE:**

This year some of us will be starting new traditions or

changing traditions due to the circumstances of our lives. For many of us, change produces stress which causes us to be irritable, forgetful or tired. Stress also diminishes our immune system and makes us more susceptible to illness.

Let us remember the reason for the season: the coming of the Christ child. Limit your activities, lower your expecta-



tions of perfection, get sufficient sleep, and wash your hands! As Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all who work to exhaustion, and I will give you rest.*" ~ *Matthew 11:28*

Sending Prayers for rest and wellness in the midst of your Christmas traditions and celebrations.

*(Excerpted from the Parish Nurse Notes of NW Presbyterian)*

## Nursery Worker Needed

Clen-Moore has an immediate opening for a person to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. until the end of morning worship (approximately 11:30 a.m.)

Qualified persons must have or be able to obtain the necessary clearances. If you are interested, please contact the church office: (724) 654-6657.

## Presbytery Seeks Volunteers

Shenango Presbytery is still seeking a few volunteers to assist the staff at the Presbytery office in answering the phone and re-shelving resource materials. This way there will always be at least 2 people in the building.

We need a few volunteers to cover the afternoon shift on the fourth Tuesday, and other occasional slots that become available. You may choose your shift and the number of times per month is flexible. Orientation will be provided.

If interested contact Dave Hoye at 724-475-2021 or [davehoye@zoominternet.net](mailto:davehoye@zoominternet.net), or Alice Sacherich at 724-652-1376 or [mathmomretired@comcast.net](mailto:mathmomretired@comcast.net).

## In Memoriam

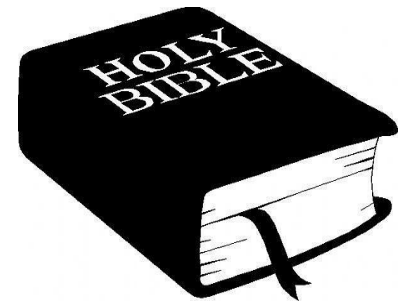
- John J. Fassinger II (son of Dr. John J. Fassinger), October 26, 2015.
- Carol M. Krebs, October 30, 2015.
- Louis H. Hill, Jr., November 1, 2015.
- Tad Jenkins (brother of Roberta Gibson), November 1, 2015. 11/1/15
- Helen Hiler (mother of Bill Hiler).

Memorial gifts to the Opening Doors Campaign given in memory of Martha Robinson, by Bonnie Carlin, and in memory of Lou Hill, by Denny & Barb Richards.



## Daily Bible Readings

- 1: Nehemiah 1-3; *Matthew* 5:27-48  
 2: Neh. 4, 5; *Matt.* 6:1-7:6  
 3: Neh. 6, 7  
 4: Neh. 8; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125; *Matt.* 7-8:4  
 5: Ps. 125, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131; Neh. 9:1-37; *Matt.* 8:5-13  
 6: Ps. 132, 133, 134, 135, 136; *Matt.* 8:14-34  
 7: Neh. 9:38-12:26  
 8: 1 Chronicles 9:1b-34; Neh. 12:27-13:31  
 9: Ps. 146, 147, 148, 149, 150  
 10: Ps. 119:1-56; *Matt.* 11  
 11: Ps. 119:57-112; *Matt.* 12:1-45  
 12: Ps. 119:113-176; *Matt.* 12:46-13:23  
 13: Malachi 1-4; Ps. 85; *Matt.* 13:24-58  
 14: Job 1-3; *Matt.* 14  
 15: Job 4, 5; *Matt.* 15:1-16:12  
 16: Job 6, 7; *Matt.* 16:13-17:27



- 17: Job 8 -10; *Matt.* 18:1-20  
 18: Job 11; Ps. 82; *Matt.* 18:21-20:16  
 19: Job 12-14; *Matt.* 20:17-34  
 20: Job 15-17; *Matt.* 21:1-17; Ps. 8  
 21: Job 18, 19; *Matt.* 21:18-22:14  
 22: Job 2, 21; *Matt.* 22:15-46  
 23: Job 22-24; *Matt.* 23  
 24: Job 25-28; *Matt.* 24:1-35  
 25: Job 29-31; *Matt.* 24:36-51  
 26: Job 32, 33; *Matt.* 25  
 27: Job 34, 35; *Matt.* 26:1-35  
 28: Job 36, 37; *Matt.* 26:36-75  
 29: Job 38, 39; *Matt.* 27:1-31  
 30: Job 40, 41; *Matt.* 27:32-61  
 31: Job 42; *Matt.* 27:62-28:20

## Mission Memo

A letter from Scott & Elmarie Parker, serving in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria:

“In October 2015, Scott lived and shared life with many families in Northern Iraq who had been displaced by the advance of ISIS over the summer of 2014. He spent time with Christian, Yzidi, and Muslim families - all of whom had lost everything in this human-made catastrophe.

“While hundreds of thousands are trying to seek refuge in other countries, the reality is less than 1% of those who have been displaced from their homes ever make it through the rigorous and limited resettlement process to make a home in the West. This means that millions of families are often stuck for generations in refugee camps, especially if there is no way for them to return to their home countries and begin building a new future for their children.

“We are exploring with our partners in Lebanon, Syria, and

Iraq how Presbyterians in the United States can partner with them to help families begin again - especially small businesses that can help families sustain themselves in the present and begin again to envision a future for their children. This is an absolutely essential step to help them find a way to stay in their ancient homelands. We invite you to stand with the church in the Middle East to help strengthen and expand this kind of work.

“Thank you for your partnership that allows us to represent you and your concern as we work alongside our partners in the Middle East during this challenging season. We value your continuing prayers, visits, correspondence and financial support. This is what allows us to stay and continue in this service.”

*Scott & Elmarie  
Parker*

## Annual Reports Due

REMINDER! Annual reports from Sunday School Classes, Committees and Ministries of the Church are due in the church office by Tuesday, January 5th, 2016.

## 2015 Contributions

Please turn in all 2015 contributions and offerings by December 31, 2015. Anything received after that date will be considered a 2016 contribution.

## Christmas Poinsettias

Clen-Moore is once again offering poinsettias for purchase during the Christmas season.

The deadline to place an order is **Tuesday, December 1**. Cost is \$9.50 per plant; payment is due with your order.

To order, call the Church Office: (724) 654-6657.



## Pastor's Desk *(cont'd)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

tire membership to do that. It just takes a few—a handful of imperfect people responding to a divine call.

We call these people “pioneers.” A fresh expression of church will become the means by which many can best join God in his mission to the world. Do you know someone in our church who could be a pioneer of fresh expressions? Might that person be you?

## CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Weichman, Pastor  
 Aaron Christy, Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
 Church Organist, Dr. Jane Karski  
 Director of Choirs, Kathryn Bressler-Mansell  
 Church Treasurer, Dennis Richards

Substitute Treasurer, Sharon Esposito  
 Church Secretary, Kathy Barkley  
 Church Custodian, Charles Antonelli  
 Sunday Custodian, Clarence Jenkins

## THE SESSION

Rev. Chris Weichman, *Moderator*  
 Gail Keffer, *Clerk of Session*

### 2017

Debbie Book  
 Jen Conrad  
 Tom Mansell  
 Don Nicolls  
 Seth Plyler

### 2016

Clarence Jenkins  
 John Karmecy  
 Gail Keffer  
 Janice McConnell  
 Nancy Natale

### 2015

Sharon Esposito  
 John Meyers  
 Tom Rapp  
 Jim Reese  
 Bob Sholler

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### 2017

Bob Davies  
 Sandy Kelty  
 Cheryl Pilch  
 Barb Richards  
 Bob Turner, *Moderator*

### 2016

Nancy Book  
 Jackie Bush  
 Gene DeCaprio  
 Brenda Matas  
 Eleanor McConahy

### 2015

Evelyn Genkinger  
 Jen Hardisky  
 Sarah Plyler  
 John Purdy  
 Margie Tinstman

## Messenger Memo



The deadline to submit articles for the January *Messenger* is Monday,

December 14.

Sign up to receive *The Messenger* via email; go to [ClenMoore.org/newsletter](http://ClenMoore.org/newsletter).

## December Helpers

### Hospital Visitation Elders

**6** Seth Plyler, Sharon Esposito

**13** Debbie Book, Tom Rapp

**20** Bob Sholler, John Meyers

**27** Jim Reese, Janice McConnell

### Deacons of the Month

Bob Turner, John Purdy

### Van Driver

*If you desires transportation to worship this month, please contact the Church Office at (724) 654-6657 by Friday at 4:30pm.*

# December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		<i>Poinsettia Order Deadline</i> 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 7PM Buildings & Grounds, Parlor		6PM Christian Ed., Library 6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal		9:30AM Holly Brunch, Parlor 1 - 4:00PM Musical Dress Rehearsal
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30AM Worship; Children's Christmas Musical 11:30AM Meatloaf Dinner, Fellowship Hall	5:45PM BBBS	9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 6PM Mission & Evangelism, Conf. Room 7PM Stewardship & Finance, Library	6PM Worship & Music, Library	6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal		7:00PM A Circle of Friends Choir Concert
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Deacons, Parlor	<i>Messenger</i> Deadline 5:45PM BBBS	9AM BP Screening, Parlor 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 7PM Session, Parlor		6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30AM Fellowship Breakfast & BP Screening 10:30AM Worship 4-6:00PM KFC/FlipSide Christmas Party		9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 7:00PM Candlelight Service	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	
27	28	29	30	31		
10:30AM Worship				<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 2015 Contribution Deadline		

Clen-Moore Presbyterian  
Church

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[www.clenmoore.org](http://www.clenmoore.org)

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## 2015 Christmas Musical

On Sunday, December 6, during worship, Clen-Moore Church's children and youth will perform "The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team" musical. Through song and stage, this musical will highlight those good ol' Christmas carols that we all love so dear.



The emphasis is upon The One that those carols are truly about, Jesus

Christ. Come and let your heart be warmed and your spirit moved as we worship the Triune God together in spirit and in truth.

May you all have a Merry Christmas!