

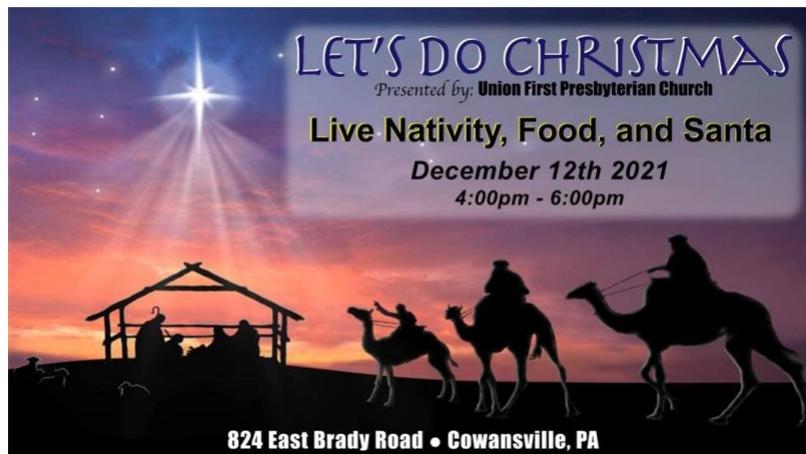
UNION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th @ 7:00 PM

All Are Welcome



An Outdoor Event for Friends and Family!

Pastor's Corner

*But Mary treasured up all these things,
pondering them in her heart. – Luke 2:19*



Taking the time to treasure and ponder all the wonderful blessings of Christmas is not something that is easy for us to do. We try to prepare the perfect Christmas celebrations by keeping special traditions and practices like baking cookies, decorating (don't forget to hang the mistletoe), buying and wrapping the gifts, and visiting friends and family (don't forget to wear that ugly Christmas sweater), that we forget the real meaning of Christmas. Everything seems to go by in such a blur that the only memories we have sometimes are those that were repeated year after year, without fail.

Yet in the chaos of just giving birth in a stable, surrounded by animals, a disheveled fiancé and later strange shepherds, a young unwed mother named Mary was able to take pause to treasure up all these things and ponder them in her heart. She may have seen Joseph trying to convince the shepherds to come back later, only to let them in anyway. She may have seen a few animals nibbling at the straw that served as a pillow for the baby Jesus. There might even have been some passersby, who peak in, wondering what the commotion is all about. And yet amid all this pandemonium, Mary treasured the fact that she had been chosen to bare the son of God, the Messiah. The one who would be the Savior of the world.

What did it all mean? How many times in the coming years will Mary reflect on her birthing experience in the stable and remember something small and seemingly insignificant, and realize that maybe it was not so insignificant after all?

Friends, this Christmas season, I invite you to take a moment to treasure what is going on around you and ponder it all in your heart. Treasure the gathering of everyone around the fireplace. Treasure the going to church on Christmas Eve. Treasure the singing of carols and the fellowship that you have together, even if it is only for a few moments. And then ponder it throughout the rest of the year.

Ponder how Christ came and died for each of those that were gathered around the fireplace. Ponder how Christ comes to each of you in his gifts of word and sacrament when we gather in corporate worship. Ponder how those carols, and all the hymns that we sing, are confessions of the faith that has been passed down from generation to generation.

Treasure these things, ponder them in your heart. Rejoice in what Christ has done for you.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peace, Rev. Diane Flynn

IMPORTANT NOTICE



WE NEED A QUORUM Congregational Meeting – Sun., Dec. 12th

Each November, we meet as a congregation to elect elders, deacons, and members to the nominating committee for the coming year. At our meeting in November, we were unable to achieve the required attendance of 30 active members to have a quorum as stated in our bylaws. Therefore, we could not hold an election.

We have scheduled another brief congregation meeting following the worship service on December 12th for the purpose of electing church officers, to present the budget for 2022, and offer a proposal to amend the church bylaws that will allow for more flexibility in meeting the requirements. However, **we need your help!**

While we are hopeful that you can attend in person to cast your vote, we understand that some members of our congregation cannot attend due to health concerns and restrictions surrounding Covid-19. To help meet the needs of our congregation, we will be offering the congregational meeting in a private Zoom meeting as well as providing an online voting option for the congregational meeting.

What does this mean?

The typical Sunday livestream will be online to view as you normally would. After Sunday service has concluded you can join the Zoom meeting from a computer, smartphone/tablet, or call in with your phone. The congregational voting meeting should be for members of the church only. To keep this private you will need to use the instructions below to access the meeting via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting Invitation: Cowansville Presbyterian is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 12/12/21 Congregational Voting Meeting
Time: Dec 12, 2021, 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86147315542?pwd=Q3B5d1NwekdanDBhRVYvZWw4VHRMQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 4731 5542
Passcode: 729508

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 861 4731 5542
Passcode: 729508
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kekjpMEEy8>



December

- 2 – Chris Freehling
- 4 – Chad Hill
- 7 – Marie Stuchell
- 10 – Carl DeBacco
- 12 – Melissa Polczynski
- 20 – Neva Pence
- 21 – Josh Geidel & Amy Tatters
- 22 – Andrea McPherson
- 23 – Vivian Tatters
- 26 – Gloria Stuber
- 27 – Holden Foust

January

- 3 - Lexi
- 8 – Leslie Smith
- 12 – Russell Claypoole
- 15 – Ella Pinkham
- 17 – Benjamin Plansinis
- 19 – Chad Bittenbender
- 20 – Teresa Geidel & Sandi Kapp
- 25 – Lowell Reed
- 27 – Jeffrey Patton, Daniel Smith, Matthew Geidel,
and Mary Jo Fiscus
- 28 – Charlotte Gaspey
- 29 – Kara J. Elder

February

- 2 – Dan Harris
- 6 – Carol Croyle
- 8 - Jennifer Porter
- 9 – Shelley Cook & Randy Jack
- 15 – Debbie Snyder
- 17 – Phyllis Krieger, Garret DeBacco & Ella
Douglass
- 18 – Marlow Foust
- 19 – Betty Hill
- 20 – Gretchen Snyder

- 23 – Steve Elder & Connie Gray
- 26 – Dana Elder & Geoffrey Stuber
- 28 – Lois Thiry



Congratulations to Justin and Rebecca (Smith) Voit on the birth of their son Rhys Andrew born on November 29th. He weighed 7 lbs. 2oz and is

19.5 inches long. Rhys is the grandson of Debbie Whittaker and nephew of Kyle and Lisa Plansinis.



January

- 3 – Lowell & Ruth Reed
- 19 – Curt & Patti Reep
- 27 – Ron & Mary Jo Fiscus

February

- 1 – Doug & Jan Cannon
- 21 – George & Stephanie Weaver



ONLINE GIVING IS HERE!



It has never been easier to give to the church. You can continue to give in the church or use the online giving program from your mobile device or online. You can make one-time payments or set up recurring payments. Choose the option that is right for you.

From your personal computer or tablet, click the "Give Now" and manage your giving. Give once or set up your recurring payment and profile. Give from your checking or savings account through automatic transactions.

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Cowansville.Church@gmail.com

Sundays School – 10:00 am
Worship Service – 11:00 am

Did you forget your 2022 stewardship pledge card?

No worries. You can drop it in the offering plate or mail it in before the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support of God's mission at UFPC to be a community where people's faith grows in knowing Jesus, praising Jesus, and serving Jesus.



Join Us for Worship
In-Person or Livestream Online

