



Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

December 2017

Pine Grove Presbyterian Church, 150 W. Pine Grove Road, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868

pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor's Ponderings

Reverend Carl Campbell

We are into December and the Advent/Christmas season is upon us. We look forward to the return of Jesus and Day of the Lord, while we celebrate his birth in Bethlehem. We Christians live in that tension of now and then. We celebrate Jesus coming to save the world but we know that God is not finished with the world yet and we are following Jesus and serving God each and every day until Jesus returns and brings to completion the Kingdom of God.

We look back to the manger and the angel voices and stand in awe of God's grace and love. We seek to live in that love and grace in our daily lives even two thousand years after his birth. We also look forward to the day of his return when God's Kingdom will be known to all. To fully serve God and walk in the way of Jesus we need to keep in mind the past, present and future.

The past teaches us what God has done. We look to the Bible and History of the church to tell us how God has acted to get us to where we are today. The present is where we seek to live lives of service to God as we have the chance to share his love and grace that has filled our lives with hope, joy and peace. The future is where we look for the fulfilment, the completion of all the promises of Christ's return and that Day when all will recognize and participate in God's love and grace.

As you do all the things that we do during this season, stop every day and remember the coming of the Child of Bethlehem to save us. Think how you can be loving and serving the Risen Christ each day. Then lift your eyes to the heavens and rejoice that He will come again and God's Kingdom will be established and all will know the Lord. What a Great Day that will be!

Carl Campbell

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Session Update

Doug Schaufler, Clerk of Session

For 2017, the Session of Pine Grove Presbyterian Church of Pine Grove Mills, PA includes the moderator, the Rev. Carl Campbell, and nine ruling elders.

Property and Budget: Doug Schaufler (clerk), Johnny Martin, and Jeff Sechler

Program and Worship: Ellen DeAntonio, Joan Henney, and Edna Miller

Stewardship and Mission: Ken Barto, Marie Marshall, and Bill McVicker.

- Communion was served on November 26. Our next communion will be served on January 14.
- The church parking lot was paved and relined for spaces.
- A new exterior door for the kitchen was purchased and installed.
- Church decorating for Advent occurred on December 3.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 7 p.m. on December 24.
- “Need a Little Christmas” community carol sing will be Sunday, December 10 at 6pm.
- We will support two families for Christmas. Thanks to all who have donated gifts.
- Per Capita for 2018 was increased to \$35.70
- Greenland Construction will provide sidewalk snow removal again this winter.
- We held our congregational annual meeting on November 19 and elected new elders and deacons as well as approved the budget for 2018.
- Installation of new elders and deacons will be on January 7.
- The congregation created over 100 hygiene kits to send to hurricane victims. Thanks to all who donated.

The next meeting of Session will be on January 2, at 7:00pm at the church.

New Ruling Elders

Please welcome the newly elected Ruling Elders (Class of 2020): Joan Henny, Jeff Sechler, Caleb Campbell

They join current elders:

Class of 2018: Edna Miller, Marie Marshall, Ellen DeAntonio

Class of 2019: Ken Barto, Johnny Martin, Bill McVicker

New Deacons

Please welcome the newly elected Deacons (Class of 2020): Linda Young, Ginny Kocher

They join current Deacons:

Class of 2018: Gail Sunday, Nancy Poust

Class of 2019: Edna Shuey and Bari Reese

Presbyterian Women

Sue Harpster

PGM Fall Bazaar

The Bazaar was one of the most successful fund-raisers ever. This was due to so many more persons donating items and the increase in volunteers preparing for and working at the event as well as packing up and delivering the unsold things. A lot of good comes from this annual bazaar! Because of your generosity, we raised \$1,540.

Sock Tree

Remember to put socks on your shopping list so they can be placed on the downstairs Christmas tree.

Christmas Tree Thank you

If you see or talk to Rachael Parsons, please thank her and her family for continuing to donate two

beautiful trees for our holiday season.

Book Sharing

There are boxes of books of all genres (fiction, mysteries, biographies) available for those who love to read. Take home a bag of reading material and after reading them, return them to the church. Feel free to donate any books from your own personal library.

Christmas Family Thank You

A big " THANK YOU " to the church members who shopped and beautifully wrapped the presents for the two Christmas families. A lot of happiness was shared by those who gave and those who received.

Deacons Report

2017 has been another year when Deacons have been busy behind the scenes. As usual, Deacons enjoy making about a dozen visits at Christmas and Easter to those unable to come to church. Last year we took balloons at Christmas and baskets at Easter. This Christmas we will be delivering angels.

Thanks to the congregation, the many donations of gently used clothes were gladly received by the Community Action Center in Aaronsburg at the end of May.

Meanwhile, throughout the year, Deacons set up and tidied away communion and made calls to ushers and greeters just before their turn to serve.

Always with generous donations of dishes from the congregation, Deacons have been able to provide lunches after funeral services. We did this for the Dolores Parsons family this year. This is a service we offer to all who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

All in all, a year of opportunity to serve.

– Linda Young, Bari Reese, Gayle Sunday, Edna Shuey, Nancy Poust, Bonnie Spitzer

Church Announcements

Food Bank Collection

This month we will be collecting **Jams and Jellies**. There is also a need for **pet food in cans or small bags**. Thanks for your help!

Paving of Church Parking Lot

The church parking lot has been paved and relined for parking. While we lost a few spaces overall, the remaining spaces were made slightly wider. Thank you to session and all who helped fund this project.

Congregational Meeting

We held our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19. During this meeting we discussed the finances and other issues related to the church and also elected new Deacons and Elders. Installation and Ordainment will be on January 7.

Bible Study

Come join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 12pm. If you have a question about something and want to know what the Bible has to say about it, write it down and bring it and we will learn together.

Per Capita

Per Capita for 2018 is \$35.70 per active member. These funds are used to cover administrative costs at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

Church Decorating – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who stayed after church on December 3 to decorate. The church looks fantastic as always!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Below are the upcoming birthdays and anniversaries of those in our church family that we are aware of. If you'd like to provide your birthday or anniversary, please email Beth Raney: bnraney@gmail.com.

Birthdays:

December:

- Janet Schaufler (12/1)
- Tacee Sechler (12/3)
- Colby Sechler (12/9)
- John Pascavage (12/24)
- Tood Heimbaugh (12/26)

January:

- Duncan Zabik (1/13)
- Johnny Martin (1/24)

February:

- Kathy Barto (2/2)
- Ainsley Rupert (2/4)
- Kristen Marrone Raney (2/8)
- Bill Asbury (2/11)
- Sharon Heimbaugh (2/11)
- Bari Reese (2/12)
- Marie Marshall (2/27)
- Doug Schaufler (2/27)

Anniversaries:

January:

- JoAnn and Albert Dreibelbis (1/22)

Holy Communion

Our last Holy Communion for 2017 was held on November 26.

Dates for 2018 are: 1/14, 3/29, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7, and 11/25

Church Announcements continued

Wheelchair Available

A wheelchair has been donated to the church and is available upstairs in the small room by the lift for anyone who may need it while in the church. If used, please return it to where you found it.

Labels / Box Top Collection

Spread some TLC by clipping from various grocery items, any Box Tops for education and snapping off the tabs from metal food or beverage cans. These benefit Ronald McDonald house and Ferguson Elementary Store. Drop off is conveniently located on the bulletin board in the downstairs.

Retired Women's Group

The women will get together for breakfast on Wednesday, December 13 at the Naked Egg at 8:30 AM. All welcome! Contact Beth Raney if you will join us. bnraney@gmail.com or 814-883-3551. They will meet again in January.

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 24 at 7:00pm. Our service includes candlelight singing and a story for the children. All are welcome to attend.

We will also still have our normal worship at 10:15am that morning.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

We will once again be collecting a special offering during the Christmas Eve service. All monies collected will be donated to the Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) to help with their on-going costs and services.

Online giving

We are pleased to announce the ability to tithe to our church via an online system. This online giving option is not intended to replace our regular plate offering, but rather give an alternative method for giving to those who would prefer to give in this manner.

Giving options include making a one-time donation; set up a recurring payment; pay with either a credit or debit card; or use a direct debit from your bank account.

How to give:

- Go online to pinegrovepresbyterian.org/give
- Click the "Give Now" button (you will be taken to a page hosted by the Presbyterian Mission Exchange)
- Fill in the form with the appropriate information
- Click the "Give Now" button to submit your donation to the church.

Need a Little Christmas?

Are you in need of a little extra Christmas spirit? Come to the church on Sunday, December 10 at 6pm for dessert and a carol sing. We will choose carols and songs as we go and enjoy a fun-filled evening of fellowship and music. Refreshments will be available afterwards. All are welcome. Bring your friends, neighbors and family and come in out of the cold and warm up with some festive holiday spirit.

Friends we miss and don't see very often

In an effort to include more members in our fellowship, we wanted to share a list of some of our friends who we miss and don't often see for various reasons. We invite you to visit, send a card, or simply pray for these wonderful members of our congregation.

Barto, Lois

2360 Hickory Ridge Rd
Warriors Mark, PA 16877

Confer, Max

Juniper Village at Brookline
1900 Cliffside Dr
State College, PA 16801

Ellenberger, Roy & Donna

Juniper Village at Brookline
1900 Cliffside Dr
State College, PA 16801

Foltz, Jerene

301 Rolling Ridge Dr
State College, PA 16801

Gallagher, June

Elmcroft
55 Carriage House Lane
Reedsville, PA, 17084

Golding, Lois

Elmcroft
150 Farmstead Lane
State College, PA 16803

Harpster, Doris

Centre Crest
502 E. Howard Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Rebuck, Sara

Valley View Home
4702 E. Main Street
Belleville, PA 17004

Tenley, Audrey

The Oaks
200 Rachel Drive
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

Welser, Ed & Pat

P.O. Box 281
Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868

Witherite, Betty

102 Teresa Circle
Port Matilda, PA 16870

Senior Citizens Group

A Senior Citizens group meets on the 4th Thursday of most months from 11:30 – 2 p.m. in the social room (ground floor). There are no meetings in January and August. All are welcome. Annual dues are only \$1.00. Potluck lunch is the usual fare except when the group decides to go to lunch at a particular restaurant. Officers: President – Joan Henney 234-4949, Vice Pres. – Grace Jones 238-1668, Secretary – Bev Corl 238-1267, Treasurer – Betty Powley 237-6147.

Turkey Suppers

Mark your calendars for our Turkey Suppers in 2018! Tickets are \$9 and will be available a week or so before each supper. Thank you for your support!

2018 dates: January 27, February 24, and March 24

Krislund Update

As the planning for what should be a terrific 2018 moves along, I'd like to thank everyone for all the support, prayers and positive feedback regarding the progress has made over the past few years. 2017 saw continued strength as Krislund served over 1,600 young people through the camps various life-changing programs. This growth has fueled the need for additional staffing and resources that will help sustain the success that Gene Joiner and his creative team have established. To that end, please prayerfully consider a financial gift during this year's annual fund campaign as your gifts will help make sure Krislund continues its tradition of not turning away anyone wishing to attend camp regardless of financial need. You can designate your gift to any specific program or need, including purchasing gift certificates for a week of summer camp for any of the young people in your lives. Also, we're offering beautiful handmade Krislund coffee mugs for gifts over \$200 during this year's campaign and as always, your gifts are tax deductible. Please call (814) 422-8878 or email info@krislund.org for more information.

As Krislund continues to expand as a year-round ministry with terrific facilities and very comfortable adult accommodations, please remember Krislund for company retreats, weddings, family reunions, day meetings, team building and adventure opportunities for groups of all ages and interests. All the income from these events go directly to supporting the Krislund ministry.

With thanks and gratitude,

Jim Purdum