



Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

December 2018

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

pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor's Ponderings

Reverend Carl Campbell

It is frosty and cold outside this morning. As I look out the window of the office here at the church, I see the headstones of folks who lived here over 100 years ago. They remind me of our many friends, family and neighbors who, in the past year, have finished this life and have gone on to be with our Lord Jesus. Those loses are in our hearts and minds during the holiday season. At Christmas we often think of those we no longer have with us. It is part of living to lose those we love. But we also have many memories to make us smile.

God understands this. God sent the Son to Bethlehem as a baby and lived in the world as we do. He experienced the loses we have and the joys we have. He mourned over loved ones who died and help hold up those who were sad and grieving. We are blessed to have a savior who knows our weaknesses and who gives us strength to overcome all things.

In the Christmas season we give thanks for the coming of Jesus to the world. His coming has made our lives worth living and he has given us hope beyond this life by his resurrection. We know he will return one day and the Kingdom of God will be made whole, fully realized. On that day we will be reunited with all those who have gone before to be with their Lord and Savior. In the meantime, celebrate his birth. We live sharing his love and hope and we remember those we love, knowing we will be with them once again.

May God's joy and love fill your hearts and minds this Christmas.

Carl Campbell

Holy Communion

Our last Holy Communion for 2018 was held on November 25 and served 39 people.

Dates for 2019 are: 1/20, 4/18, 6/9, 8/4, 10/6, and 11/24

Hygiene Kit Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed supplies and/or monies for the hygiene kits. We assembled just under 100 kits and will be sending them off to the Presbytery to be distributed where needed. With all the natural disasters occurring this past year, these kits help ease just a little bit of the burden placed on those affected.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Ponderings	1
Session Update	2
Presbyterian Women	3
Church announcements	4
Deacons Report	7

Session Update

For 2018, 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: Caleb Campbell, 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 to 39 people on November 25. Our next communion will be January 20.
- The church parking lot was seal coated and relined for spaces.
- A new exterior door for the kitchen was purchased and installed.
- Church decorating for Advent occurred on December 2.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 7 p.m. on December 24.
- Community carol sing will be Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m.
- We will support two families for Christmas. Thanks to all who have donated gifts.
- Per Capita for 2019 was increased to \$36.30
- Greenland Construction will provide sidewalk snow removal again this winter.
- We held our congregational annual meeting on November 18 and elected new elders and deacons as well as approved the budget for 2019 with a 2.3% increase.
- Installation of new elders and deacons will be on January 13.
- Thank you for the donations for the hygiene kits to send to hurricane victims.
- At our December meeting, Session accepted the resignation of Caleb Campbell. We thank Caleb for his service as an Elder during the past year and wish him well in his new job in Logan, Utah.

New Ruling Elders

Please welcome the newly elected Ruling Elders (Class of 2021): Edna Miller, Jan Kocher, Carol Zeigler

They join current elders:

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

Class of 2020: Joan Henney, Jeff Sechler, Caleb Campbell

New Deacons

Please welcome the newly elected Deacons (Class of 2021): Ellen DeAntonio, Sharon Dance

They join current Deacons:

Class of 2019: Edna Shuey and Bari Reese

Class of 2020: Linda Young, Ginny Kocher

Presbyterian Women

Sue Harpster

PGM Fall Bazaar

The P.W. group had the MOST successful bazaar to date. This reflects the BEST response from church members and others who gave generously of their time and donations, helped behind the scene to set up, worked the bazaar and packed up afterward and of course the faithful shoppers on Saturday and Sunday. Proceeds reached \$1,785 which provides many opportunities for the P.W. to aid local agencies and missions. Attend our next meeting: Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. when we start to discuss the distribution of funds.

Legacy Ends

For over 30 years Bill and Rachael Parsons donated the two Christmas trees always found in the church. The larger one in the sanctuary was decorated with stitched Christian symbols. In the all purpose room the smaller tree held youth made paper chains as well as donated brand new

socks, mittens and gloves which would be passed along to the Shoe Bank in State College. We applaud the Parson Family for continuing this donation while they lived. Their generosity definitely added to our enjoyment of this holy season.

Kudos to Santa's Helpers

For those church members who shopped or gave money to the P.W. shoppers there will definitely be surprised and happy children and caregivers on Christmas morning. Their wishes were directed to clothing, coats, pajamas, underwear, shoes, boots and two toys such as dinosaurs, books, cars, dolls and noisy or light up toys. The Philipsburg YMCA carefully directs this program and chooses the families that are most in need. Consider being a part of this project next year. You will feel blessed helping to bring them Christmas joy.

Ferguson Township Youth Group

Our church, in collaboration with St. Paul Lutheran Church, runs a youth group in the area for kids in grades K-8. This group is intended to provide a safe, fun, and supportive place for kids to come and have a good time, play games, engage in entertaining activities and get involved in the community, all while hearing bits and pieces of ministry.

Everyone is welcome. There is no requirement to live or go to school in Ferguson Township. Meetings are typically the 4th Sunday of the month at the Ferguson Township Lions Club (except this month).

For December, we will be having a Dinner and a Movie night on Saturday, December 22 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Lion's Club. We will be serving pizza, watching a Christmas themed movie, having a short Bible lesson and hopefully have time for a few fun games and activities.

Tell your friends, family and neighbors and bring a friend to our next meeting! Follow along at www.facebook.com/fergusontwpyouth.

Church Announcements

Food Bank Collection

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

Congregational Meeting

We held our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 18. 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 13.

Bible Study

Come join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 12 p.m. 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 2019 is \$36.30 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 2 to decorate. The church looks fantastic as always!

Turkey Suppers

Mark your calendars for our Turkey Suppers in 2019! Tickets are \$9 and will be available a week or so before each supper. Thank you for your support!

2019 dates: January 26, February 23, and March 23

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)
- Todd 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)

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 School. Drop off is conveniently located downstairs.

Retired Women's Group

The women will get together for breakfast on Wednesday, December 12 at the Naked Egg at 8:30 a.m. All welcome! Contact Beth Raney if you will join us: bnraney@gmail.com or 814-883-3551. We will meet again in January.

Christmas Eve Worship

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

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 16 at 7 p.m. 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

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

Ellenberger, Donna

WynWood House
122 WynWood Drive
Centre Hall, PA 16828

Foltz, Jerene

301 Rolling Ridge Dr
State College, PA 16801

Gallagher, June

WynWood House
294, Discovery Dr
Boalsburg, PA 16827

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

Welser, Ed

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.

Deacons Report

2018 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 Angels that came from Doris Sunday Harpster's collection at Christmas and daffodils at Easter. We also provided eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt!

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 Roy Ellenberger family, for the Parsons family when Rachel and her son Robert died, and for the Patricia Welser 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, Ginny Kocher