



Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

December 2019

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

pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor's Ponderings

Reverend Carl Campbell

Christmas is only two and a half weeks away. Shopping all done? Started? Is the food purchased and the house cleaned? We usually have a lot to do in the weeks before Christmas. It is crazy and fun and tiring but we usually enjoy it all when Christmas is finally here.

We need to pause daily during the busyness to think about what we are celebrating: The Birth of Our

Savior, Jesus! At the very heart of the holidays is God breaking into our world, not as a warrior king or with cataclysmic changes to our world but as a baby, sent to us through Mary and Joseph. He came to show us God's love and forgiveness. God did not force or coerce us. God invites us to meet the creator and sustainer of life through a child who grows to be a man who is obedient and righteous, without sin. God, our Father, comes to us in Jesus, the Son, by action of the Holy Spirit. In Christ we discover the love of God and the forgiveness God offers. For generations folks have discovered life and hope and peace and joy in Jesus who we first meet in a stable in Bethlehem. In the midst of all the rest pause daily to remember why we celebrate and be filled with the love of God, that has set us free!

Carl Campbell

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Church Bylaw Change

Session proposed a change to Article 7, Section 1 of the church bylaws to reduce the number of Ruling Elders from nine to six. The proposal was voted on and approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. This will be a gradual decrease as current members fulfill their terms, with eight ruling elders for 2020, seven for 2021, and finally six starting in 2022.

Tony Schaufler – Young Adult Volunteer

Through December, we are supporting Tony's work as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in North Carolina. To donate through the church to Tony's Mission work, please write the check to the church and put Tony Schaufler in the memo line. Donate online by going to: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new/thomas-schaufler>

Session Update

For 2019, 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: Bill McVicker, Johnny Martin, and Jeff Sechler

Program and Worship: Jan Kocher, Joan Henney, and Edna Miller

Stewardship and Mission: Ken Barto, Carol Zeigler, and Karen Roth (replacing Caleb Campbell)

- Caleb Campbell resigned in January due to relocating to Utah. He was replaced by Karen Roth who will complete the remaining two years of the term.
- Communion was served to about 40 people on November 25. Our next communion will be January 12.
- Church decorating for Advent will occur on December 8.
- Community carol sing will be Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 7 p.m. on December 24.
- We will support a family for Christmas. Thanks to all who have donated gifts.
- Per Capita for 2019 was increased to \$37.75
- Greenland Construction will provide sidewalk snow removal again this winter.
- We held our congregational annual meeting on November 24 and elected new elders and deacons as well as approved the budget for 2020 with a 2.5% increase.
- Installation of new elders and deacons will be on January 5.
- Anticipated projects for 2020:
 - Painting of front door, trim, and windows.
 - Fixing downspout drainage issues on parking lot side.

New Ruling Elders

Please welcome the newly elected Ruling Elders (Class of 2022): Johnny Martin, Bill McVicker

They join current elders:

Class of 2020: Joan Henney, Jeff Sechler, Karen Roth

Class of 2021: Edna Miller, Jan Kocher, Carol Zeigler

New Deacons

Please welcome the newly elected Deacons (Class of 2022): Bari Reese, Bonnie Spetzer

They join current Deacons:

Class of 2020: Linda Young, Ginny Kocher

Class of 2021: Ellen DeAntonio, Sharon Dance

Presbyterian Women

Sue Harpster

The Presbyterian Women met to distribute funds earned through the church's annual bazaar.

Centre Volunteers in Medicine received \$300 which will be matched with an equal amount by the Shaner Organization.

Twelve other community sources were each awarded \$ 100. They were: Centre Safe, Bridge of Hope, Youth Service Bureau, Interfaith Human Services, Interfaith Human Services – Fuel Bank, Housing Transitions, Habitat for Humanity, the Gideons International, Faith Centre, Out of the Cold, local Red Cross (smoke alarm project) and Tony Schaufler's mission work through YAV in North Carolina.

Much good will and many blessings came out of this year's successful bazaar. Thanks to all who donated items, bought goods, worked behind the scenes and helped during and after the sale.

A special kudos to Ruth Crawford who chairs the Christmas Family Project. Without her guidance and stamina families would not receive the support they so desperately need. Signing up to provide items, shopping and wrapping the presents gives you a way to share blessings with others. This project brings joy to those giving as well as to those receiving.

Deacons Report

2019 has been another year when Deacons have been working to serve our church. As usual, Deacons enjoy making about a dozen visits at Christmas and Easter to those unable to come to church. This year we took fleece blankets at Christmas and baskets filled with all kinds of goodies 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. They are always happy to receive the clothes. They help many folks through the Center.

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

We only helped with one funeral meal this year. It was at the Port Matilda Firehall for the Witherite family. Food was provided and four of our Deacons set up and served the meal at the firehall, which was a blessing for the family. We are always grateful for the generous donations of dishes from the congregation when the Deacons are asked to provide meals after funeral services. This is a service we offer to all who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

– Linda Young, Bari Reese, Ellen DeAntonio, Edna Shuey, Sharon Dance, Ginny Kocher

Church Announcements

Food Bank Collection

This month we will be collecting **Jelly**. 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 24. During this meeting we discussed the finances and other issues related to the church and also elected new Deacons and Elders. Installation will be on January 5.

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 2020 is \$37.75 per active member. These funds are used to cover administrative costs at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

Church Decorating – Thank You

Thank you in advance to everyone who helps decorate the church. The church always looks fantastic!

Turkey Suppers

Mark your calendars for our Turkey Suppers in 2020! Tickets are \$9 and will be available a week or so before each supper. Thank you for your support!

2020 dates: January 25, February 22, and March 28

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 11 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.

Carol Sing

Come to the church on Sunday, December 15, at 6 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.

Holy Communion

Our last Holy Communion for 2019 was held on November 24. Dates for 2020 are:

January 12
 April 9
 June 7
 August 2
 October
 November 22

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

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.