

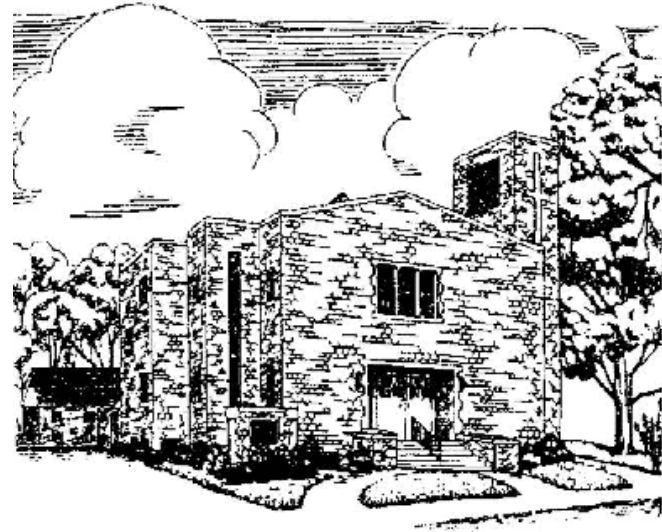
Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church
321 Rocky Grove Avenue
Franklin, PA 16323



SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

December 2016

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church



“Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus’ Name”

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrovepres.org

Email Address: [rgapc @ verizon.net](mailto:rgapc@verizon.net)

Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Rachel J. Johns, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Church Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FROM THE SESSION

ACTIONS OF SESSION – November 14, 2016

1. Approved minutes of October 17, 2016 Session meeting.
2. Approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of Session on October 23, 2016.
3. Approved Financial Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Reports of Checking and Budget for October, 2016.
4. Approved request that the Reverend Ms. Johns officiate the Green/ Masterson wedding on July 8, 2017 and that the rehearsal and wedding be held at our church.
5. Approved the payment of the 2016 per capita tax in full.
6. Accepted the resignation of Beth Blanchard from Deacons due to scheduling conflicts.
7. Approved vacation request of Scott Donaldson for December 1-9, 2016.
8. Approved vacation request of Rhonda Rust for December 6, 2016.
9. Approved the proposed 2017 budget as recommended by the Stewardship Ministry Team.
10. Approved the recommendation of the Stewardship Ministry Team to transfer investments according to the recommendations of Merralee Obenrader of Edward Jones.

December Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Kassidy Clark | 20 Jacob Wetzel |
| 6 Rhonda Rust | 21 Pastor Rachel Johns |
| 15 Savanna Lukers (2009) | 25 Joshua Wendt |
| 19 Jim Speth | 29 Mike Burkhardt |
| 20 Daniel Wetzel | |

Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20th of each month or risk being omitted from next month's issue.



Servants for DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Linda Hartman & Margie Sheffer

Greeters:

4	Jim & Flo Albright
11	Doris Feather & Rhonda Rust
18	John & Mary Jo Dumbleton
24	Arika Songer & Diane Whitman
25	Lilly Songer & Diane Whitman

Lighters: (Nov.)

27	Diane & Eric Whitman
4	Brad & Joyce Wetjen
11	Doris Feather & Rhonda Rust
18	The Songer Family
24	The Hartman Family

Counters:

4	Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen
11	Joyce Wetjen & Linda Zeller
18	Linda Hartman & Diane Whitman
24	Diane Whitman & Linda Zeller
25	Linda Hartman & Diane Whitman



MISSIONS CORNER

Kids Treasurefest, which was held October 29, 2016, in Moorhead Hall did not have as many children in attendance as had been hoped. The few that did attend had a blast bobbing for apples, had more than one pumpkin each to decorate, enjoyed the hot dogs, chips, Kool-Aid Jammers and cookies galore and went away with a bag full of goodies, including a 30-day devotional booklet and a teddy bear each from Lorraine McCauley's collection which she donated to the church. A fun time was had by all.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected throughout Advent (November 27th to December 24th). This Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. There are envelopes in the pews for this special offering and included in the printed copy of this publication. Please give. God is good!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your Missions & Outreach Ministry Team,

Diane Whitman, Moderator

Rhonda Rust

Linda Zeller

Elissa Stuttler, Elder

Joyce Wetjen



For Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" we collected enough to pack thirty-one (31) shoeboxes, which were prayed over during worship on November 13th and delivered for distribution throughout the world. Thanks to all who donated in any way to this worthy cause of outreach and demonstration of God's love. The necessary postage of \$217 was also obtained through donation. We will be continuing the program again in 2017 so get ready for January with small stuffed toys.

JANUARY Birthdays



1	Sierra Cook	20	Lois Pierce
4	Judy Sandok	20	Konner Hartman
5	Elissa Stuttler	24	Brooke Brannon
11	Aaron Weltner	26	Mike Hartman
11	Jessica Songer	27	Anden Hill (3)
13	Alisha Newton	29	Joshua Kirwin (17)

(January birthdays have been included in this issue for your convenience and will also be published in the January issue.)

OPCOMING EVENTS at RGAPC

Wednesday, December 7th – Youthful Spirits

Men and women gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at ***Benjamin's Roadhouse, 1213 Liberty Street, Franklin.*** Make your reservation with hostess, Rhonda Rust, at 437-2831 by December 5th. All are welcome!! Watch for information on the next gathering on January 4th.

Saturday, December 10th - Women's Prayer Breakfast

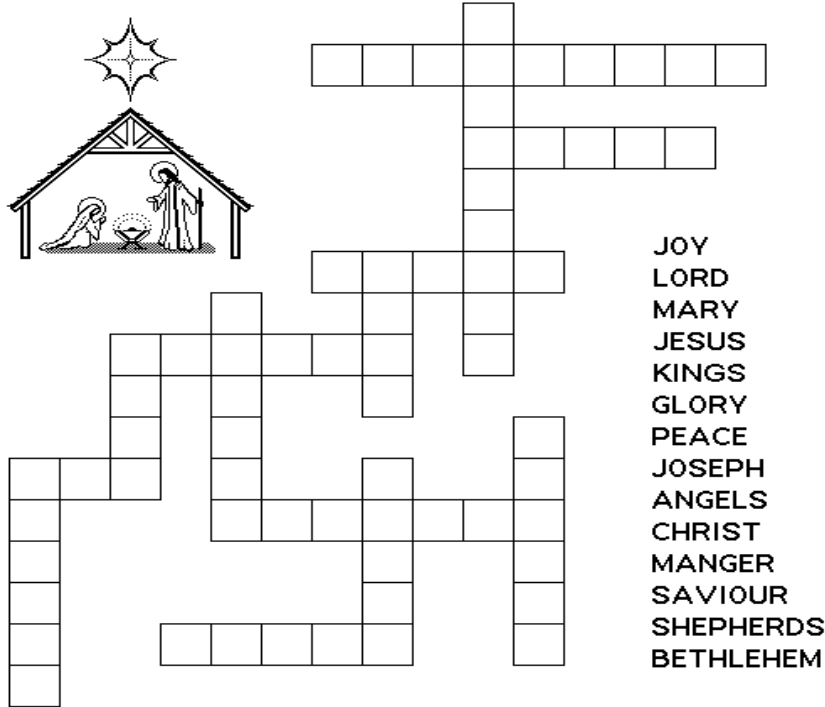
Join the women of RGAPC for breakfast the second Saturday of each month at Linda Lou's Restaurant, 1572 Mercer Road at 8:30 a.m. Devotions, prayer and fellowship abound.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 p.m. - Invite your friends and relatives!

Saturday, January 7th – 10:00 a.m. -- *"Unhanging of the Greens"* -- MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



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The Meaning of the Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Savior's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.

Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the details of us all,
and just as two are never the same
the Lord knows and calls us each by name.
Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.
So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find a
reason to celebrate anew and a reminder
of His love for you.

by *Holley Gerth*

Thank you!

So much to be thankful for... especially people like you.

I want to thank you all so much for the beautiful vase of flowers you sent me at The Caring Place. It was very much appreciated.

Zella McNany

(Actual card on display on bulletin board sanctuary level.)

First United Methodist Church, 1102 Liberty Street, Franklin, will host a concert – **Cahal Dunne's "Wonderful World of Christmas"** – on **Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$12 and available in the church office at FUMC. Enjoy an afternoon of musical entertainment by this noted singer, songwriter, comedian and pianist.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2016 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 25, 2016. It's not too late to pay the **2016 per capita** amount which is **\$29.50** per RGAPC member. Be sure to clearly mark your check or envelope as "2016 PER CAPITA."

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES – 2017 offering envelopes will be available for pickup beginning December 11th. **Please do not use them until January 1, 2017.** Any contributions received in 2016 will be credited to 2016 even if in a 2017 envelope!

FOR UNTO US
a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
★ **WONDERFUL,** ★
COUNSELLOR,
THE MIGHTY GOD,
The everlasting Father,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.
Isaiah 9:6

Congregation/Corporation Meetings and Brunch held on November 20, 2016



The Annual Meetings of the Congregation & Corporation were held Sunday, November 20th in the sanctuary. Rev. Rachel Johns opened the meetings with prayer. Twenty-one members were in attendance and represented a quorum. **Elders** elected for 2017 are: **Lois Pierce** (5th year) and **Diane Whitman** (3rd year) for another 1-year term. There are 2 vacancies of 3-year terms. **Deacons** elected are: **Kennedy Hartman** and **Rhonda Rust** (3-year terms) as well as **Doris Feather** (5th year) and **Phyllis Vogan** (4th year) remaining for 1-year terms. There are 3 vacancies – 1 each for 3-year, 2-year and 1-year terms. **Trustees:** There were no nominations. There are 5 vacancies – 1 each for 1-year and 2-year terms and 3 for 3-year term. **Auditor: Doris Feather.** **Presbyterian Home Reps: Jim & Flo Albright** and **Gene & Marge Sheffer.** **Nominating Committee: Rhonda Rust** (2nd year) and **Marge Sheffer** (3rd year). There are 3 vacancies for Nominating Committee from the congregation. The 2017 budget as approved by Session on November 14th was presented with encouragement to increase giving be it even so slight. The corporation meeting was also opened with prayer by Rev. Johns. John Dumbleton, moderator of Trustees, gave a report of work performed in the past year and what is planned for 2017. He thanked **Gene Sheffer** and **Rhonda Rust**, outgoing Trustees, for their service. Rhonda will continue as secretary of the Trustees with no vote or voice.

The meeting was followed by a brunch of breakfast casseroles, muffins, fruit, orange juice and coffee. Thanks to all who assisted in putting on such a delicious spread. No one went home hungry that's for sure.



DECEMBER 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>All meetings of committees and boards are to be held in the Youth Room during the colder months in order to save on electricity. It's cheaper to heat with gas, and we need to be good stewards of that which has been entrusted to us.</p>				1	2	3 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 <i>Christmas Dinner</i> @ Linda Lou's <i>(dinner served at 6:30)</i>
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 5:30 Boy Scouts	5 7:00 Trustees	6 6:30 Sweet Adelines Practice	7 NOON - YOUTHFUL SPIRITS - <i>Benjamin's Roadhouse</i> <i>(1213 Liberty Street)</i>	8	9	10 8:30 Women's Breakfast @ Linda Lou's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 5:30 Boy Scouts	12 6:15 Session - <i>Ladies Parlor</i>	13 6:30 Sweet Adelines Practice	14	15	16	17 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 5:30 Boy Scouts - <i>Court of Honor</i> <i>(Moorhead Hall)</i>	19 6:30 Christian Ed.	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22	23	24 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>
25 9:00 Worship 	26	27 6:30 Sweet Adelines Practice	28 6:30 Missions & Outreach	29	30	31 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 