

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



SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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)

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Rachel J. Johns, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FROM THE SESSION

ACTIONS OF SESSION – NOVEMBER 13, 2017

1. Approved the minutes of the October 9, 2017 Session meeting.
2. Approved the Financial Secretary's Report ending October 31, 2017, and the checking account summary and Treasurer's Report for October, 2017.
3. Approved actions of church secretary in giving keys to various church buildings to Stephen and Beth West of Grace Learning Center and Wally Fox for emergency entry.
4. Approved the removal of the name of Don Fox from the active roll of the church.
5. Terminated members from the active roll of the church who have been inactive for at least two years and who have not responded to the letter sent out previously.
6. Approved a motion to divide the costs of the improvements made thus far to the church required under state safety laws with Grace Learning Center once they receive their funding.
7. Approved the 2018 budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational and Corporation meetings to be held on November 19, 2017.
8. Approved a motion that no furnishings to be sold, transferred or disposed of shall be removed from the church property after midnight, November 13, 2017, without the approval of Session.



For Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" we collected enough to pack thirty-six (36) shoeboxes, which were prayed over during worship on November 19th 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 \$324 was achieved through donations plus \$81 additional which will be donated to Samaritan's Purse. We will be continuing the program again in 2018 so get ready for January with hats, gloves & scarves.

December Birthdays



6 Rhonda Rust	25 Joshua Wendt
21 Pastor Rachel Johns	29 Mike Burkhardt

Servants for DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Doris Feather & Diane Whitman

Greeters:

3	Dorie Feather
10	Phyllis Vogan
17	Scott & Nancy Donaldson
24	Rhonda Rust & family
31	Gene & Margie Sheffer

Worship Leaders:

3	Rhonda Rust
10	Diane Whitman
17	Rhonda Rust
24	Lois Pierce
31	Rhonda Rust

Counters:

3	Linda Hartman & Jane Beach
10	Linda Hartman & Linda Zeller
17	Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen
24	Linda Hartman & Linda Zeller
31	Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen

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



If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning worship, please contact Margie Sheffer (432-3456). You will want to advise Margie as to whether you will order your own flowers, how you want it listed in the bulletin and if you will be removing them after the service.

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CARD OF THANKS

*Thank you for the sheaf of wheat and the luncheon and all the kind words in such a difficult time.*      *Family of Don Fox*  
 (actual card displayed on bulletin board on sanctuary level)

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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

OPCOMING EVENTS at RGAPC

Wednesday, December 6th – *Youthful Spirits*

Men and women gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at Amazing Foods, 1327 Elk Street. Make your reservation with this month's host, Grace Gibbons, at 432-4388 by December 4th. All are welcome!! Watch for information on the next gathering set for January 3rd.

Saturday, December 9th - *Women's Prayer Breakfast*

A small group of women of RGAPC meet for breakfast the second Saturday of the month at Linda Lou's Restaurant, 1572 Mercer Road at 8:30 a.m. Devotions are followed by good food and fellowship. Please join in as the group would like to grow!!!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 p.m. - Invite your friends and relatives! (There will be no morning service.)

Saturday, January 6th – 10:00 a.m. -- *"Unhanging of the Greens"* -- MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

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**Congregation/Corporation  
Meetings and Brunch held  
on November 19, 2017**



The Annual Meetings of the Congregation & Corporation were held Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary. Rev. Rachel Johns opened the meetings with prayer. Twenty members were in attendance and represented a quorum. **Elders** elected for 2018 are: **Linda Hartman** (4<sup>th</sup> year), **Lois Pierce** (6<sup>th</sup> year), **Diane Whitman** (4<sup>th</sup> year) and **Linda Zeller** (4<sup>th</sup> year) for another 1-year term. There are 3 vacancies of 3-year terms and 1 vacancy of 2-year terms. **Deacons** elected are: **Judy Ream** (3-year terms) as well as **Doris Feather** (6<sup>th</sup> year) and **Phyllis Vogan** (5<sup>th</sup> year) remaining for 1-year terms. There are 3 vacancies – 2 for 3-year terms and 2 for 2-year terms. **Trustees** elected for 1-year additional term are: **Arnie Bish** (7<sup>th</sup> year) and **Kevin Songer** (4<sup>th</sup> year). There are 5 vacancies – 1 each for 1-year and 2-year terms and 3 for 3-year term. **Auditor: Lois Pierce** **Presbyterian Home Reps: Jim & Flo Albright** and **Gene & Marge Sheffer**. **Nominating Committee: Rhonda Rust** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) and **Marge Sheffer** (4<sup>th</sup> year). There are 3 vacancies for Nominating Committee from the congregation. The 2018 budget as approved by Session on November 13<sup>th</sup> was presented. There were no nominations from the floor and no questions asked. 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 2018. He thanked **Scott Donaldson** and **Rhonda Rust** for their service as volunteer trustees and the donors of funds for the work done to remove the back of the building and make improvements to the drainage system.

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 (even though some of the dishes got a little overdone keeping warm in the ovens).

**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2017 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 31, 2017. It's not too late to pay the **2016 per capita** amount which is **\$30.00** per RGAPC member. Be sure to clearly mark your check or envelope as "2017 PER CAPITA."

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2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES – 2018 offering envelopes will be available for pickup beginning December 17th. **Please do not use them until January 1, 2018.** Any contributions received in 2017 will be credited to 2017 even if in a 2018 envelope! As well, any contribution received in 2018 will be credited to 2018 even if it is in a 2017 envelope!

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Christ United Methodist Church, 1135 Buffalo Street, Franklin, will present a *Christmas Cantata* for the community on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** A freewill offering will be taken and refreshments will be available after each performance.

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NOTE OF THANKS

To RGAPC family,

Thank you so much for remembering me at Thanksgiving time – especially Kennedy Hartman for sending the beautiful card.

Carol Rough

MISSIONS CORNER

As Christmas approaches, so does a cherished tradition that has been around since the 1930's. The Christmas Joy Offering helps with educational, medical and special needs of current, upcoming and retired pastors, missionaries and church workers.

The money that is collected is divided equally between two parts of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides help for retired and current leaders and their families. It also helps those who wish to attend ethnic schools and colleges, but would otherwise not be able to afford this opportunity.

Many church leaders have had a profound impact on people's lives. They are gifts to us, just as Jesus Christ was God's greatest gift to us all. The Christmas Joy Offering provides us with a way to offer a gift in response.

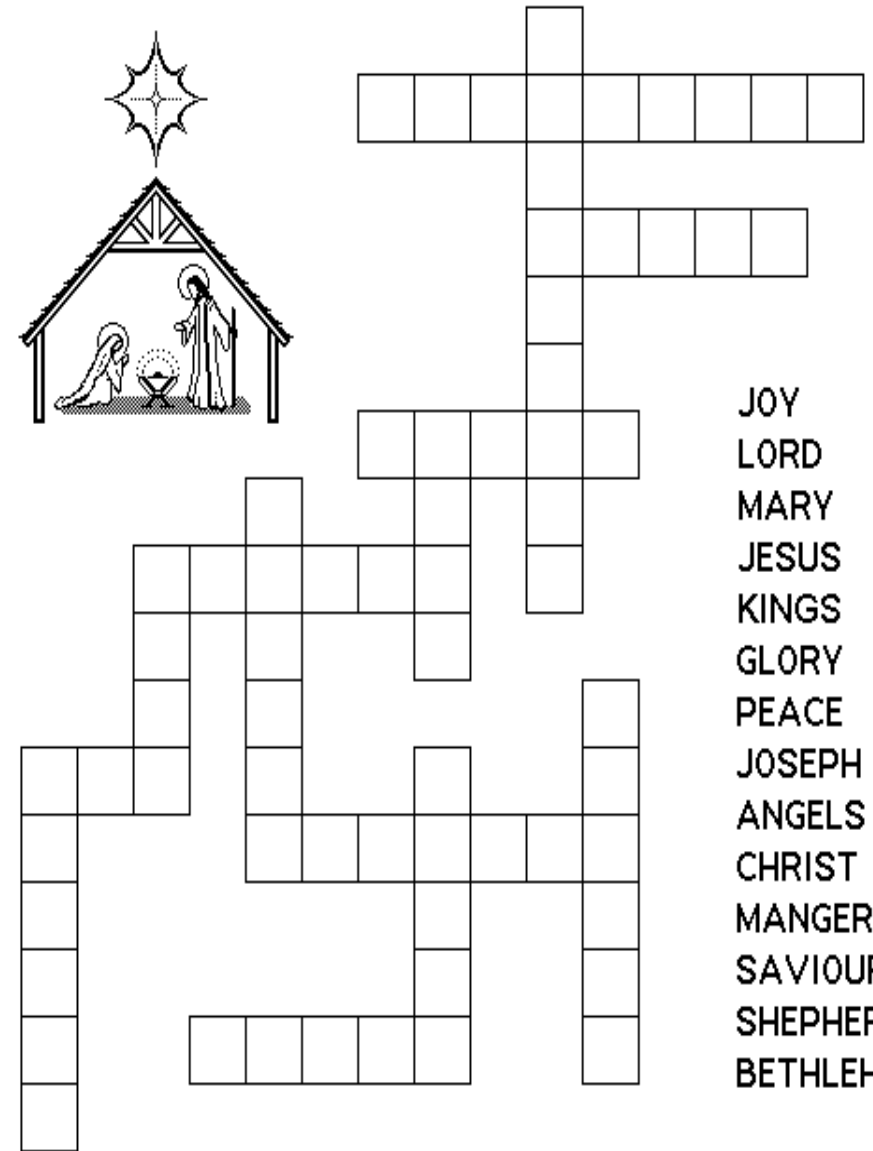
Please give generously to this worthy cause. You will find special envelopes in the pews. If you are writing a check, please write "Christmas Joy" on the memo line.

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Are you looking for a stocking stuffer or small gift for someone who says they don't need anything? Do they like to eat out? Who doesn't? Well then, we have what we consider a very good gift – a coupon booklet full of "buy one get one" coupons at area restaurants and entertainment establishments! For only \$5, you can please even the hardest to buy for. Contact any Missions & Outreach Ministry Team member (Joyce Wetjen, Elissa Stuttler, Linda Zeller, Diane Whitman & Rhonda Rust) or the church office. Buy several; you can't go wrong with this one!!!!!!



## Christmas Crossword

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






JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM



## DECEMBER 2017



| SUN<br>DAY                                                                                                                                                       | MONDAY                                                                                                     | TUESDAY                                         | WEDNESDAY                                                                       | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                                                                                                                          | SATURDAY                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                            |                                                 |                                                                                 |           | <b>1</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>2</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous<br>6:00 <i>Christmas Dinner</i><br>at Linda Lou's |
| <b>3</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts                                                                                                                      | <b>4</b><br>6:00 CLAW<br>7:00 Trustees                                                                     | <b>5</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>Practice  | <b>6</b><br>NOON -<br>YOUTHFUL SPIRITS<br>at Amazing Foods<br>(1327 Elk Street) | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>9</b><br>8:30 Women's Breakfast<br>@ Linda Lou's<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous        |
| <b>10</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts                                                                                                                     | <b>11</b><br>6:15 Session                                                                                  | <b>12</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>Practice | <b>13</b>                                                                       | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>16</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous                                                  |
| <b>17</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts ~<br><i>Christmas party</i>                                                                                         | <b>18</b>                                                                                                  | <b>19</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>Practice | <b>20</b><br><i>NEWSLETTER<br/>DEADLINE</i>                                     | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>23</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous                                                  |
| <b>24</b> No morning service<br>7:00 Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight Service<br> | <b>25</b><br>           | <b>26</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>Practice | <b>27</b>                                                                       | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>January<br>Sonshine Newsletter<br>available:<br><a href="http://www.rockygrovepres.org">www.rockygrovepres.org</a> | <b>30</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous                                                  |
| <b>31</b>                                                                                                                                                        |  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b> |                                                 |                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                            |