

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

December 2019/January 2020

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.

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: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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



FROM THE SESSION

ACTIONS OF SESSION – November 11, 2019:

1. Approved the minutes of the October 14, 2019 Session meeting.
2. Approved the Financial Secretary's Report for the period ending October 31, 2019, the checking account summary for October, 2019, and the Treasurer's Report for October, 2019.
3. Approved the proposed 2020 Budget to be presented at the Congregational Meeting.
4. Approved December 5, 2019 as a vacation day for the Secretary.
5. Approved the change of the by-laws to disband the Board of Deacons and combine Deacons with Congregational Life and Worship Committee.

MISSIONS CORNER:

As Christmas approaches, so does a cherished tradition that has been around since the 1930s. 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.

Your Missions & Outreach Ministry Team

December Birthdays



6 Rhonda Rust	21 Pastor Rachel Johns
10 Duncan Hickey	29 Mike Burkhardt



JANUARY Birthdays



5 Elissa Stuttler
11 Jessica Songer
20 Lois Pierce
20 Konner Hartman
26 Mike Hartman
27 Anden Hill



Answers to crossword puzzle:

Across: Taxes, Gold, Frankincense, Wisemen, Myrrh, Judea

Down: Manger, Bethlehem, Augustus, Shepherds, Herod, Mary, Jesus, Inn, Birth

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 4th – Youthful Spirits

Men and women gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at **Dawndi's**, 136 Warren Road, on **December 4, 2019**. Make your reservation with this month's host, Lois Pierce, by December 2nd. (We will be meeting at 11:45 a.m. in order to beat the lunch rush.) All are welcome!! *This will be the last gathering until March; watch for information on the next gathering set for March 4th.*

~~~~~

### **Song of Joy**

**Christ United Methodist Church & friends** will present a Christmas Cantata on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 2:30 and 7:00 p.m. at CUM Church, 1135 Buffalo Street. Tickets are free and required. Call 432-3019. A freewill offering will be taken; refreshments will be offered.

~~~~~

Bethlehem, A Live Walk-Through Village Experience!

When: December 13 – 15, 2019 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Evangelistic Tabernacle, 216 Main Street, Cooperstown, PA

"Bethlehem is not just a place...it is an experience. This is an outdoor live production with real actors and animals. Experience the sounds, smells, tastes and atmosphere and learn an important lesson from the Rabbi (played by Rev. Joe Martin). You'll want to see where Baby Jesus lays as well. On Sunday, there will be worship around the fire at 8:45 p.m.



Servants for DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elissa Stuttler & Kennedy Hartman

Worship Leaders:
1 Lois Pierce
8 Rhonda Rust
15 Pastor Rachel Johns
22 Lois Pierce
29 Rhonda Rust



Servants for JANUARY

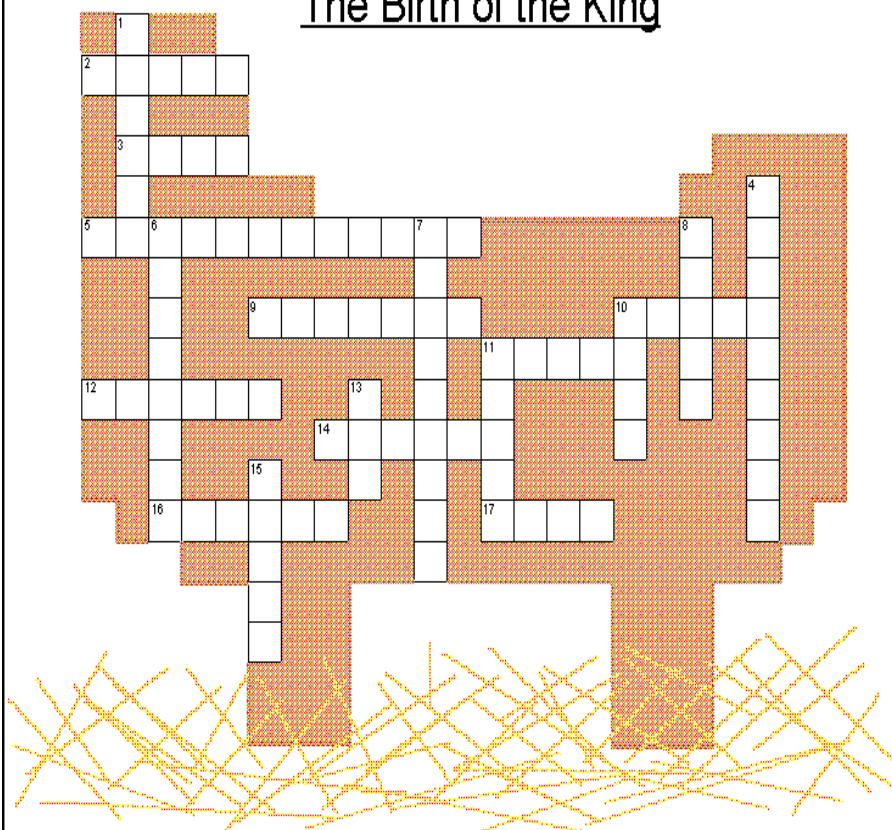
Hospital Visits: Joyce Wetjen

Worship Leaders:
5 Pastor Rachel Johns
12 Lois Pierce
19 Rhonda Rust
26 Pastor Rachel Johns

~~~~~

The Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting was held Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, in the sanctuary. Rev. Rachel Johns opened the meetings with prayer. **Elders** elected for 2020 are: **Lois Pierce, Elissa Stuttler & Joyce Wetjen** for 1-year terms. **Trustees** elected for 1-year terms are: **Arnie Bish, John Dumbleton, Kevin Songer & Brad Wetjen**. The 2020 budget as approved by Session on November 11<sup>th</sup> was presented. The proposal to combine Board of Deacons with Congregational Life & Worship Committee as of January 1, 2020, while keeping the checking autonomous was approved. John Dumbleton, moderator of Trustees, reported this year's repair of the outside wall of Sweet Adelines' storage room, placement of fire extinguisher in protective case in Moorhead Hall, refinishing of outside wood doors, removal/replacement of shrubs out front and under blue sign, and order of new side doors awaiting installation. He thanked **Scott Donaldson** and **Rhonda Rust** for their service as volunteer trustees.

## The Birth of the King



- | Across                                                                    |                                                                                          | Down                                                                            |                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these                         | 12. Mary's husband                                                                       | 1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one               | 11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name |
| 3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings                    | 14. These appeared to them about the birth of Christ                                     | 4. The city of His birth                                                        | 13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here       |
| 5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen | 16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord | 6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone                                         | 15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas                          |
| 9. The 3 kings from the east                                              | 17. This led the wisemen to Jesus                                                        | 7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks |                                                                  |
| 10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen                       |                                                                                          | 8. The king of Judea: when Jesus was born                                       |                                                                  |
| 11. Bethlehem is here                                                     |                                                                                          | 10. His mother                                                                  |                                                                  |

©A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com



If you desire to place a memorial poinsettia in the church for Christmas, please place this form with payment in the offering plate or send to the church office:

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

**Deadline to order is Sunday, December 8, 2019.**

Attached is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$7.50 each) payable to:

**“Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church Deacons’ Fund”**

Please mark color preferred:

\_\_\_\_Red \_\_\_\_White \_\_\_\_Pink

\_\_\_\_Marble \_\_\_\_Burgundy

\_\_\_\_Christmas Rose (flower in shape of an open rose)

**(Please print clearly.)**

NAME(S) OF DONOR:

\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Poinsettias will be displayed in the church beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

- ☐ Please check if you would like your flower(s) to go to a shut-in.  
***If at all possible, please do not pick up your flower(s) until  
AFTER our Christmas Eve worship service***



# DECEMBER 2019

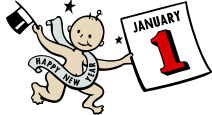


| SUNDAY                                                                                              | MONDAY                    | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                       | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                      | THURSDAY                             | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:00 Worship<br><i>(First Sunday for<br/>Christmas Joy Offering)</i><br>5:30 Boy Scouts | <b>2</b><br>7:00 Trustees | <b>3</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>practice                                                                                                | <b>4</b><br>NOON -<br>YOUTHFUL SPIRITS<br>at Dawndi's<br>(136 Warren Road)                                     | <b>5</b><br><i>Office<br/>closed</i> | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous  |
| <b>8</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts                                                         | <b>9</b>                  | <b>10</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>practice                                                                                               | <b>11</b>                                                                                                      | <b>12</b>                            | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| <b>15</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts ~<br>Christmas party                                   | <b>16</b>                 | <b>17</b><br>6:30 Sweet<br>Adelines<br>practice                                                                                               | <b>18</b>                                                                                                      | <b>19</b>                            | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| <b>22</b><br>9:00 Worship<br><i>First Day of Winter</i>                                             | <b>23</b>                 | <b>24</b><br>6:00 Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight Service<br> | <b>25</b><br>              | <b>26</b>                            | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| <b>29</b><br>9:00 Worship<br><i>(Final collection for<br/>Christmas Joy Offering)</i>               | <b>30</b>                 | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b><br> |                                      |           |                                           |



# JANUARY 2020



| <i>Sunday</i>             | <i>Monday</i>                          | <i>Tuesday</i>                            | <i>Wednesday</i>                                                                               | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i>                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|
|                           |                                        |                                           | <b>1</b><br> | <b>2</b>        | <b>3</b>      | <b>4</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous  |
| <b>5</b><br>9:00 Worship  | <b>6</b><br>2:00 CLAW<br>7:00 Trustees | <b>7</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice  | <b>8</b>                                                                                       | <b>9</b>        | <b>10</b>     | <b>11</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>12</b><br>9:00 Worship | <b>13</b>                              | <b>14</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>15</b>                                                                                      | <b>16</b>       | <b>17</b>     | <b>18</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 Worship | <b>20</b><br>10:00 Session             | <b>21</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>22</b>                                                                                      | <b>23</b>       | <b>24</b>     | <b>25</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>26</b><br>9:00 Worship | <b>27</b>                              | <b>28</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>29</b>                                                                                      | <b>30</b>       | <b>31</b>     |                                        |

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