

*Welcome to  
St. Peter's Pikeland  
United Church of Christ*

1193 Clover Mill Road  
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania 19425  
610.933.6419



*First Sunday of  
Advent*

November 30, 2025  
10 a.m.

WELCOME AND JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

J.S. Bach

COMING OF THE LIGHT

*Please use this time for silent meditation before worship.  
During the service, the people will make the responses  
in the **bold print**.*

## GATHERING

To you, O God, we lift our spirits; to you we turn in trust.

**Help us to know your ways, we pray, and teach us your paths.**

Heavenly God, we place our hope in you.

**For you are the God of our salvation, in whom our hope is founded.**

From the most ancient of times, your steadfast love has reached down in mercy.

**O Come, Emmanuel, and turn our hope into joy!**

## ADVENT CANDLE

Micki and Alyssa Menkins

**ALL: Hope is like a flame that warms and comforts us. As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of the prophets and the hope we have in Jesus Christ. We continue to hope in God's promise that Christ will come again to fill the life of the world with peace and joy and love. Thank you, God, for the flame of hope. As we prepare for Christ's coming, help us to share our hope with others. Amen.**

HYMN (three verses below)      "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
*All who are able may stand for the hymn and prayers that follow.*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine  
advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's  
dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall  
come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and  
mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world  
with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel!**

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

We all understand the one who said to Jesus, “I believe; help my unbelief.” All of us have experienced a faith that wavers. Let us humbly approach the source of true hope in our world with the prayer of confession:

**Redeemer God, we wait in expectation for Christmas, and the hope that Jesus brings to us. We confess, however, to a hope that gets lost in fears and doubts. Forgive us, we pray, and help us turn our eyes this Advent toward our true source of hope, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear the Good News. The words of hope found in our faith leave no one out. God’s amazing grace would leave no one behind. Friends, we are known by name, and God’s hand is outstretched to all. Let us give glory to God. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Advent Hymn”

Nockels

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy One, open us to the miraculous promise of your Good News, found in scripture. By your grace, may we be drawn closer to you and to each other, according to your will.

**Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*The Future House of God*

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bibles, Page 631

### A LESSON FROM PSALM 122

*We will read the psalm responsively,*

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

**Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

*(continued next page)*

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

**For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

GOSPEL LESSON

*The Necessity for Watchfulness*

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bibles, Page 27

MESSAGE

“Humble Birth – Grand Vision”

Pastor Doug Hanson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20 (adapted)

*All may stand for the affirmation and the hymn that follows.*

*We will read the Affirmation of Faith responsively.*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;  
**For in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.**

Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through Christ and for Christ.

**Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.**

Christ is the head of the body, the church.

**Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent.**

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

**And through Christ all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Christ’s cross.**

HYMN 110

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

*After the Hymn, please be seated.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

*Using “debts . . . debtors.”*

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Hope”

arr Joel Raney

PRESENTATION

*All may stand as the offering is presented and remain standing  
for the prayer and hymn and blessing that follow.*

SONG OF PRAISE 780

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We dedicate our gifts this day, trusting that St. Peter’s may be  
a beacon of hope in all the ways we serve you, O God. Bless  
our gifts, and bless us, that your Spirit of Good News may  
always find a home here. Amen.**

HYMN 117 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

BENEDICTION

*After the Blessing, all may be seated until the postlude begins.*

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE “Zion Hears the Watchmen’s Voices” arr Cherwien



## **TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**THE MESSAGE** is brought to us by Pastor Doug Hanson

**THE ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR** is Kat Bowman

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by  
Maureen Wookey in memory of her mom, Joan Betres

## **TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HANGING OF THE GREENS:** To prepare for our Hanging of the Greens service at 7pm on December 7th, volunteers will be needed in the morning to help set up. Please consider staying after worship that morning to join in the various preparation needs.

**WORSHIP HELPERS:** Please take a look at the sign up sheets posted in Fellowship Hall to see where you may be able to help. We would love to be able to fill the rest of 2025.

You can give to the church by scanning the  
QR code here:

All online giving will be designated on your  
giving statements. Thank you!



## **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Sunday, December 7 at 7:00pm

### **Caroling**

Friday, December 12 at 7:00pm

### **Christmas Eve**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm Family Service

9:00pm Candlelight Service of

## Lessons and Carols

### Our Prayer List

Andrea Lafleur  
Angie Schlessman  
Annette Noce, JoAnn Thomson's mother  
Austin Myers  
Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths  
Barbara Shivers  
Carol Meyer  
Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins  
Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson  
Charles and Virginia Garber  
Danielle Smith, friend of Sara Hackman  
David Richman, friend of Grace Merryman  
Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner  
Dr. Michael J. Ward  
Ed McCarthy, friend of Sarah Hackman's  
Fred Schilling, husband of a friend of Kathy Krasley  
Friends and family of Betty Booraem  
Friends and family of Jason Cox, cousin of Kelly Martini  
Gayanne Loring, sister of Dawna DeRosa  
Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin  
Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson  
Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson  
Jennifer Osborne  
Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman  
Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother  
John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman  
Karl Longenbach, friend of Deb Wetty  
Kelly Maldonado friend of Maureen & Kenzie Wookey  
Laura Dick  
Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman  
Linda Cherek, friend of Deb Wetty  
Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson  
Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthy  
Paul Pascale, friend of the McClimons  
Penny, friend of Linda Johnson  
Richard, friend of Dee McClimon  
Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister  
Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister  
Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law  
Sue and Jeff, Linda Johnson's sister and brother-in-law  
Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow  
Tina Frick, friend of Sarah Hackman  
Tracey Knox, cousin of Kathy Krasley  
Travis McClimon  
Virginia Lawrence

# Bethany Children's Home 2025

**Activity Items:** Art and Craft Kits, Adult Coloring Books, Paint By Number, Tie Dye Kits, Card Stock, Paint Brushes, Glue Sticks, Stress Balls, Gel Pens, Hand Held Games, Board Games, Scrapbook Paper, Sharpies, Wooden Bird Houses/Wooden Crafts to Paint, Stretched Canvas (various sizes), Canvas Boards and poster boards, 1" binders

**Cottage Needs:** Small bins with handles to hold toiletries, wash cloths, bed pillows, bath towels, pool towels, shower curtain liners, shower curtain rings, kitchen dish cloths/towels, twin comforters, 4 slice toasters, DVDs (G, PG and PG-13 only)

**Hobbies/Games:** Teen/Young Adult Series Books, Books for grade 1-5 reading levels, jigsaw puzzles, hard bound journals, popular board games.

**Gift Cards to Support Independent Learning Skills:** Walmart, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, Five Below, TJ Maxx/Marshall's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Famous Footwear, Payless Shoes, Game Stop, Boyer's IGA, Redner's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Ross, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Red Box and Netflix.

**Teen Girls Clothing: (Juniors and Misses sizes please)**

Sweatpants– Sizes Small-2X, Panties – size 5,6,7,8,

Sports Bras/Bralettes- Sizes Small-2XL, Socks-all types, Pajamas- all sizes, bath robes, tank tops, slippers, gym shorts.

**Teen Boys Clothing: (men's sizes please)**

Sweatpants for men-Sizes Small-2XL, Underwear-All men sizes and styles, Socks-all types, Pajama pants-Sizes Small – 2XL, white t-shirts – all sizes, gym shorts, slippers.

**Accessories:** Hair straighteners, curling irons, curling iron wavers, hair dryers, umbrellas, electric digital alarm clock with no radio, collapsible hampers or wash baskets, rain ponchos, rain boots, wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper.

**\*Please note that all items must be new. We cannot accept used items. Thank you!\***

