



Winterstown UMC

12184 WINTERSTOWN RD
FELTON, PA 17322

717-244-1984

winterstownchurch.org

717-244-1984

Office Fax

717-246-7414

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

10:30AM - 2:30PM

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday by 10:00AM

Newsletter Deadline

20th of each month

Worship
10:30AM

"Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

winterstownchurch.org

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant



Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

january



2026

Meet Our Staff

Pastor - Rev. Becky McGee
757-709-5187

Admin Assist - Amber Rusionis
Treasurer - Connie Human

Organist - Nancy Forry
Pianist - Rick Marks
Sr. Choir Director - Sandra Gingrich

Day Care Director - Danielle Orwig
Assistant Day Care Director - Heather Gibson
717-246-8017



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls

What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:
Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike! (Psalm 139:14, KJV)



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.

"Translate" the verse below using the code.

| CODE | E=△ | L=□ | R=+ |
|------|-----|-----|------|
| A=■ | G=● | M=✓ | S=■ |
| B=× | H=◀ | N=† | SH=✿ |
| D=◀ | I=▲ | O=✿ | T=¤ |
| K= | P=□ | Q=□ | TH=♥ |

Y □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.



THE WINTERS TOWN CRIER

WINTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Beloved Children of God,

Merry Christmas and Happy Epiphany! Why, you may be asking, am I still wishing you a merry Christmas in the January newsletter? Well, it's because so many entities in our society are totally wrong in their use of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"! In the Christian calendar, the season of Christmas begins on December 25th and lasts through January 5th. Those are the twelve days of Christmas – not the 12 days which precede Christmas day! As early as 567 A.D., the church began formally setting aside the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as both a sacred and festive season with Advent a special time of fasting in preparation of the feast. The observation of a prolonged festive Christmas celebration continued through the middle ages and the early modern era.¹

January 2026

Volume 13, Issue 1

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 12/25 | 12/26 | 12/27 |
| 12/28 | 12/29 | 12/30 | 12/31 | 1/1 | 1/2 | 1/3 |
| 1/4 | 1/5 | 1/6 Epiphany | | | | |

While we're all aware that Christmas decorations and Christmas carols and songs are available in the retail world as early as October in some instances, what gets me upset is that stores, radio stations, and music streaming apps pretty much stop playing Christmas music the day after Christmas. And, whatever Christmas decorations and Christmas-themed items are still left in stores on December 26th and beyond go on clearance in order to get rid of them.

The Christmas season starts on the 25th, and we should continue to celebrate the unbelievable way in which God decided to help us humans by becoming one of us for at least twelve days! Even the AI response to my googling "Christian calendar twelve days of Christmas" knows that we have our celebration of this beloved season backwards:

"The Christian Twelve Days of Christmas is the festive season from December 25 (Christmas Day) to January 5 (Twelfth Night), ending with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, celebrating Christ's birth and leading to the Magi's arrival; each day honors specific saints or events, with traditions like feasts and revelry, contrasting with the modern focus on the days before Christmas."

Hopefully you will receive this newsletter prior to January 5th, or Twelfth Night. But if not, at least you'll know this in time for the 2026-27 Christmas season!

In God's Love,
Pastor Becky

¹ <https://anglicancompass.com/the-12-days-of-christmas-guide-to-christmastide/>





GROWING FRIENDS

Happy 2026!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and got everything they wanted from Santa :) We wish everyone health and happiness in this new year!

Growing Friends is closed this month on Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd. We welcome everyone back on Monday, January 5th!

28 years of
Growing Friends!



This month Growing Friends turns "28" on Thursday, January 15th!!! To celebrate this special day we will have a pizza party! A special snack will be given in the afternoon for all to share. We thank all of our amazing families and staff for this anniversary! Growing Friends has touched many lives in the 28 years of being in business, and we are looking forward to many more years together! We also thank Winterstown United Methodist Church for allowing us to stay in their building!

After a very busy December, we are taking the month of January to prepare for our inspection coming up in February.

Themes for this month include: MNO, 11 & 12, White, star, Martin Luther King Jr Day, Police Station, Winter, Ice and Icicles.

If anyone needs 1st Aid/CPR training, Growing Friends will have someone in training the staff on Thursday, January 8th at 1:30pm. If you are interested in joining or need to be recertified, please let Danielle know by Tuesday, January 6th and we will add you to our roster. The cost of the training is \$70 per person.



Are you or someone you know looking for a Preschool setting for the upcoming school year? We will open registration in February for our Preschool Program. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by August 31st in order to participate. For more information call, email, or stop by the daycare office. Spots are filled on a first come first serve basis.

Registration for our spring soccer shots opens this month. If you are interested in your child participating, be sure to let us know. We will be happy to send you the link for registration.

GF Staff news: This month Ms. Addie celebrates her 5 year work anniversary with us. Happy Birthday this month to Ms. Bonnie who works in the toddler room!

FUNDRAISER NEWS:

Thank you to the families who purchased items off of our Amazon wish list! The teachers are grateful for the new items that come into the center! The children loved having Santa deliver new things to their classrooms! Our wish list is still live if you would still like to donate items. Our list can be found by scanning the QR code or search on Amazon gift list under "Growing Friends, Felton PA." Items can be shipped directly to us. This is just one way to make a donation that we greatly appreciate! It saves us greatly!



We are looking forward to another wonderful year here at Growing Friends!

Much appreciation,

Ms. Danielle



Email us anytime at: GrowingFriendsChildCare@gmail.com
Call us: Monday - Friday 6:00 am to 6:00 pm (717) 246-8017



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING - WINTERSTOWN UMC

November 17th
at 6:30 PM

Present: Buddy, Ann, Gabe, Tammy and Bill, Dawn, Connie, Carrie Anderson and Terri Laird and Pastor Becky

Guests: Danielle Orwig, Betsy Enfield, June Ellis, Bill Runkle, Deb Henry, Joanna Gruver, Nancy Grove, Linda Hivner, and Francis Grove

Prayer: The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Buddy

Update given by Ann on calling the meeting due to the fire at the parsonage, and what our thoughts are collectively to find a place for Pastor and begin the process of moving forward.

WGAL was interested in making a story, but we were told that all correspondence must go through the conference.

Donations for Pastor:

- Danielle will be in charge of any donations from Growing Friends; all will pass through their accounts before being forwarded to Connie.
- There will be NO Go Fund Me Accounts.
- The conference insurance adjuster was to arrive on November 18, 2025, at 9 AM.
- Questions were raised about the parsonage at Felton Bethany Church and its current availability and conditions. They were able to tell us it had been empty for quite some time and needs a few things, but they thought it was able to be used.
- Carrie did some research on items from "New Digs" and what the process would be. Deb Henry shared an option of available items through her son and Pastor agreed to meet with them to see if she could use anything, prior to contacting New Digs.
- McKendree Faith Church was in touch with Pastor Becky and had offered the use of their parsonage if we needed to consider that.
- We decided that the parsonage at Bethany was the best fit. A team was pulled together and the next day we all arrived to clean the house for moving in day on the 20th, of November, 2025. We (WUMC) will share in the costs with Bethany, on the expenses of the parsonage usage.



The next meeting with the SPRC will take place on December 17, 2025.

The meeting was closed with prayer offered by Buddy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn M. Burg, Secretary

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL—SHIP



The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.

Source: churchart.com



ENGAGE IN MINISTRY



United
Women
in Faith

United Women In Faith:

Happy New Year!!

Our next meeting is scheduled for
Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
We will not be meeting in January!
Come out and see what we have
planned for 2026.



If you have a heart for visiting our folks who are homebound, then please let the office know you are willing to be a part of a visitation ministry. Your visits are a way for these people to experience love and to know they are not forgotten by their church family. Send information to: adminassist@winterstownchurch.org Or call (717) 244-1984

Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser



Orders due by the
2nd Sunday of the month
Grocery cards distributed
the 3rd week of the month

TITHES & OFFERINGS



To give on-line one time or for a recurring offering,
you can use this QR code:



| 2025 Shares Of Ministry | | 2025 Shares Paid to Date | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Benevolent | \$6,358.28 | Benevolent | \$3,709.02 |
| Connectional | \$9,462.49 | Connectional | \$5,519.78 |
| Clergy | \$10,188.33 | Clergy | \$5,943.21 |
| TOTAL: | \$26,009.10 | TOTAL: | \$15,172.01 |

FINANCIAL STANDING

2025 has been a rough year financially, with the expectation that year-end will have expenses exceeding income by approximately \$50,000. This was driven primarily by a substantially higher volume of on-going maintenance expenses and four unexpected capitalized expenses that were not included in the 2025 budget.

The 2025 annual Shares of Ministry (Fair Shares) assessed by the Susquehanna Conference were \$26,009.10. Shares were paid in full through July. Total shares paid for 2025 were 58.3% of the obligation, payment amounting to \$15,172.01.

On a positive note, the need arose for a new HVAC system for the childcare section of the church. We were able to reach the contracted amount of this capitalized expense, \$25,400.00, through contributions and a fundraiser to the 2025 HVAC Capital Campaign.

Thank you for the giving of your time, service, and financial support as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ and help all persons Encounter God, Experience Love, and Engage in Ministry. Please prayerfully consider your financial giving as we enter a new year.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Through our Angel Tree project we were able to help one family and I thank the volunteers who adopted this family for Christmas!

When reaching out to our local elementary school, they were unable to provide just one or two families in need for Christmas, not because there were none, but because there were too many! They added that roughly 50% of our school district families are at or below the poverty line. They mentioned that a larger need comes after the holidays when they find that many families struggle with greater expenses in the winter months of January & February.



My contact at the elementary school stated that the best way we can support these families is to supply the school with grocery and/or gas gift cards and coats. As needs arise, they will then have these resources available.

Considering this need we have launched a new project to "Warm Up Our Community"

Through Sunday January 11, 2026, we will be collecting monetary & coat donations.

A basket will be placed at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday marked:

"Warm Up Our Community" This basket is to collect monetary donations of cash or checks. If you prefer to write a check, please make the check payable to Winterstown UMC and indicate Warm Up Our Community on the memo line. The monetary donations will be used to purchase grocery gift cards. *** Extra monetary donations given to the Angel Tree Project will now be directed to our "Warm Up Our Community" project and go towards helping more families in our community!

If you would like to donate a coat: Please give only NEW COATS or CLEAN GENTLY USED COATS

A bin will be available in the lobby for you to place the coats.

Please follow this size chart:

| Grade | Approximate Age Range | Typical Coat Sizes |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| Kindergarten | 5-6 years | XS (4-5), S (6-7), 6X |
| 1st Grade | 6-7 years | S (6-7), M (7-8) |
| 2nd Grade | 7-8 years | M (7-8) |
| 3rd Grade | 8-9 years | M (8-9), L (10-11) |
| 4th Grade | 9-10 years | L (10-11) |
| 5th Grade | 10-11 years | L (10-11), XL (12-13) |
| 6th Grade | 11-12 years | XL (12-13), YXL (Youth XL), or XS/S Adult |

Thank you for your continued support!!
Carrie Anderson, Outreach Coordinator



2nd – Naomi Latimer
4th – Doug Miller
10th – Eric Anderson
16th – Donald Gingrich
18th – Robert Arsenault
21st – Sean Mego
27th – Angela Markel
29th – Nathan Hess
31st – Beth Shenberger



No anniversaries in January

JANUARY 2026 VOLUNTEERS

| Liturgist | Counters | Sound and Media Shout | Sunday School Teachers & Helpers |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1/4 - Linda A. 1/11 - Dawn B. 1/18 - Bill W. 1/25 - Eunice C. | 1/4 - Deb S. & Brian H. 1/11 - Dawn B. & Terri L. 1/18 - Richard J. & Brian H. 1/25 - Deb S. & Brian H. | 1/4 - Dawson G. & Dawn B. 1/11 - Quinn W. & Amanda L. 1/18 - Bill W. & Tammy W. 1/25 - Buddy M. & Brian H. | 1/4 - No Sunday School 1/11 - Joy H. & Tabitha G. 1/18 - Sherri F. & Eunice C. |

If you are interested in serving during Sunday services please contact the office at 717-244-1984 or send an email to adminassist@winterstownchurch.org

Worship
Service
10:30AM



JANUARY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|-----|-----------------------------------|
| <p>When we deliberate, God reigns; When we decide wisely, God reigns; When we decide foolishly, God reigns; When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns; When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns; When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.</p> <p>— William Temple at the Lamberth Conference, 1930</p> | | | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | <i>Pastor Becky Vacation OFFICE CLOSED</i> | | |
| 4 Epiphany Sunday Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Communion | 5 | 6 | 7  Simply Loved - 3:30 PM | 8 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice - 7:00PM | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Baptism of the Lord Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM | 12 | 13 Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Red Lion Corner Café - 11:30AM  Simply Loved - 3:30PM | 14 Small Gathering - 10:00AM APR Use - 5:30PM Choir Practice - 7:00PM | 15  @ Lion's Pride - 8:30AM Small Gathering - 2:00PM Praise Band - 6:00pm | 16 | 17 APR Rental 12:00PM - 6:00PM |
| 18 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM | 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Sanctuary Use |
| 25 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | |
| Simply Loved - 3:30 PM | | | | | | |
| Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice - 7:00PM | | | | | | |