



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



Meet Our Staff

Pastor - Rev. Becky McGee

757-709-5187

Admin Assist - Amber Rusonis

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

Bible Quiz

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph



Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)

Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

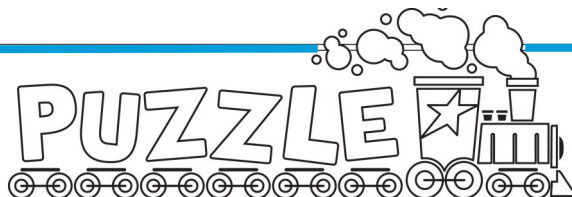


What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)



GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.



Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV

THE WINTERS **TOWN CRIER**

WINTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2025

Volume 12, Issue 12

Inside this issue:

Growing Friends	2
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes	3
Finance and Outreach	4
Birthdays and Anniversaries	5
Calendar	6
Upcoming Events & Notes	7

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Beloved Children of God,

For most of December, we are in the Christian season of Advent. It began on Sun., Nov. 30th, and it will last until Dec. 23rd. It's the time when we prepare ourselves, once again, to receive the infant whose birth changed the world forever! It's also a time when we prepare ourselves to receive Christ for the time in which he will come back to earth to finish what he, the Father and the Holy Spirit started – restoring this world to way it was intended to be when our Triune God first created it. So, that's a very brief overview of the Advent season.



Of course, businesses have capitalized on this season, too, just as they do with Christmas and Easter. There are so many different Advent calendars being used to countdown until Christmas – a beauty version, a tea calendar, a chocolate version, a Bluey book calendar, a fishing lure version, and thankfully, at least from my pastor's perspective, a nativity version!



So, you might think that I'm about to rant about how the world takes holy traditions and makes a profit out of them - kind of like Jesus getting upset with the vendors in the Temple courtyard when he overturned their tables. And maybe I would have, had it not been for one of the most awesome, unique gifts I've ever received – an Advent calendar with 24 ice cream flavors!!!! This calendar also includes clues so you can guess what the flavor of the day is. It's genius! Thank you, Nancy, for this marvelous gift!!!



So now I can't critique all the other variations of Advent calendars out there without being a hypocrite, and I certainly don't want to be that! Instead, I'll wish you all both an Advent season full of anticipation and a Christmas season full of the love, peace, hope and joy that was all wrapped up in the little baby Jesus born in a manger over 2,000 years ago.

In God's Love,
Pastor Becky



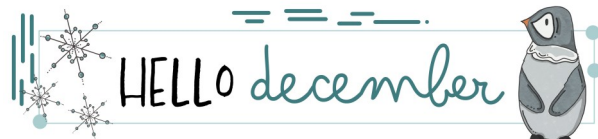


GROWING FRIENDS

Happy December!

Another year has come and almost gone!

It is crazy to think that we are in the last month of 2025! Where has the year gone!



This month is very busy here at the center as we prepare for the holidays and to close out 2025 and welcome in 2026! Growing Friends is open till 1:00 on Wednesday, December 24th. We will be closed Thursday December 25th through Friday, January 2nd. We will reopen normal business hours on Monday, January 5th, 2026! During this time the staff have the opportunity to come into the center and do some deep cleaning while the children are not here, so don't be alarmed if you see staff in and out of the center during this week.

Themes for this month include: J,K,L; 9 & 10; Red; Triangle; Christmas; Hibernation; Animal Shelters

This month there will be no school for our Red Lion children on Monday, December 1st & December 24th-Friday, Jan. 2nd, 2026, Red Lion has a half day on Tuesday, December 23rd.

We are excited to be partnering up with the church to put on a special Christmas presentation for all! On Friday, December 12th at 6:30pm Pastor Becky and the children of Growing Friends will put on this special presentation! All are welcome to attend this evening! Staff and church member will feed the participating children, then dress them in their costumes.

Wednesday, December 17th we will have a special visitor (Santa) come to visit the good children of Growing Friends, and give them a gift. We are currently looking for a Santa, so if you know anyone that would be available from 10-11:30 feel free to give them our contact information. We always enjoy this special morning, and it puts everyone in the Christmas spirit! Later that afternoon our school age children will receive their gift and have a fun afternoon with the Polar Express. The children will be served hot chocolate and cookies for a snack. After getting their gifts they will enjoy watching the Polar Express in the All Purpose Room. If you would like to donate some cookies please let Heather or Danielle know.

FUNDRAISER NEWS:

Thank you everyone that participated in our fundraisers over the past year! We wouldn't be able to do the extras for the kids without the participation of the families, staff, and church families! Our next fundraiser we are looking to line up is Joe Corbi's in January. Information from Joe Corbis will be arriving soon, so be sure to check your church mailbox or the bulletin board. Orders will be delivered just in time for the big Super Bowl game in February! Our Amazon Wish list is still live through Christmas! The children love when Santa delivers new items to their room! Be sure to check out our Amazon wish list 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 one way to make a donation that we greatly appreciate! It saves us greatly!



We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to everything this new year brings us.



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

October 20th
at 6:30 PM

Present: Buddy and Ann McGinnis, Gabe Hildebrand, Bill and Tammy Waldrup, Dawn Burg, Connie Human and Pastor Becky.
Guest: Danielle Orwig, Growing Friends Director

Prayer- Dawn offered the prayer to start the meeting.

Danielle, being the guest, went first to bring the team up to date on the Growing Friends activities.

- They still have a waiting list of individuals wanting to bring children to day care.
- She has one person scheduled for an interview and one that is currently shadowing.
- She is still working on the new Employee Handbook and hopes to have it ready to hand out for the new year.
- She submitted the application for the first grant, that will be used to offset the costs of training and CE.
- Maintenance needed: the hooks outside of the baby room are falling off the wall and asking if hooks could be added to the one's room.
- Trunk or Treat was scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2025, at 10 am for the small children and again at 3:30 pm for the school aged children.
- The Thanksgiving dinner for GF will be held on November 20, 2025, at 11:30 am. If you are free and are able to lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated.
- December 17, 2025, between 9:30 and 11:30 am, Santa will arrive. (Bill W. will be making some contacts for this). At that time, he will pass out gifts.
- Pastor Becky congratulated Danielle on a superb job that she is doing in taking over as the director of GF, both with the daily running of the daycare and the financial end as well.
- Pastor Becky then made her announcement about her upcoming retirement plans, prior to Danielle excusing herself from the meeting.

Connie gave her report as follows:

- We are paid up to date on our insurance and pension; however, we still owe \$10,800 in shares of ministry. We had so many unexpected maintenance expenses that needed immediate attention and put us behind in the SOM.
- A motion was made by Gabe and seconded by Bill to move the monies designated as mission money to the operating fund, since we have no planned missions scheduled.
- The announcement was made that the shares of ministry for 2026, have been decreased by 7.9 %, totaling \$26,724.89.
- Quinn Waldrup is doing a fundraising event of selling Mr. Sticky Buns, to assist with the HVAC monies needed to install the new system. The orders and money are due by November 2, 2025, and pick up will be on Nove 13th, 2025 from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Buddy made a motion and it was seconded by Ann, to go ahead with the HVAC project, as soon as we had all the monies per the contract presented. Buddy signed the agreement for the company.
- We had a discussion of the use of the APR room, regarding suggested offering amounts as well as all honorariums needed for funerals, etc. in the future, to present to families.
- The tree will be in the hallway to remember all of our members who now live in heaven for all Saints Day, on November 2, 2025. This same tree will then be used as the Angel Tree, to assist families in need to have the same special memories of a wonderful Christmas that we are all blessed to have.
- We are planning on Christmas decorating on Black Friday, so anyone who is able to assist, please come out and join in the fun.
- The communion for November was held in the pews, due to the candles set up for All Saints Day.
- We are looking into how to enhance the visits to those who can't make it to church and possibly being able to offer communion.

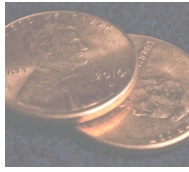
Pastor Becky offered the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Prior to everyone leaving, we had cupcakes and ice cream to celebrate Ann's birthday.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn M. Burg, Secretary



ENGAGE IN MINISTRY



The first Sunday of every month we accept pennies. There is a container on the table right outside the Sanctuary door. This money goes to the United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg. Thank you for your contributions.



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

The 2025 monthly Shares of Ministry (Fair Shares) have been paid in full through July. There were no payments made during the months of August through November. Due in part to a much higher volume of maintenance expenses incurred year to date against budget, the leadership team voted to withhold additional Shares of Ministry payments for now.

Thanks to EVERYONE who was able to contribute to the 2025 HVAC Capital Campaign through donations and by purchasing sticky buns through the fundraiser. We were able to reach our goal for the contracted amount of \$25,400. As of November 24, the installation of the new HVAC system has been completed.

As always, 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.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Thank you for all the hand towels that have been donated for Mission Central. They will be greatly appreciated!

From Stewartstown Food Pantry: Thank you to Winterstown UMC Congregation for all the food and monetary donations that were collected! Your continued support of the Stewartstown Food Pantry is greatly appreciated!

Terri Hebel, Food Pantry Director

December we will be concentrating on our Angel Tree project. Thank you to those who have signed up to sponsor an angel and to everyone who has given monetary support! There is still time to participate if you wish to support this project! The sign-up sheet is in the lobby as well as envelopes for monetary donations.

Carrie Anderson
Outreach Coordinator



The United Women in Faith will hold our CHRISTMAS PARTY on December 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the church all-purpose room.

This event is open to all women of the church.

We will have a covered dish meal, so attendees are asked to bring a dish or two to share.

Each attendee is also asked to bring a wrapped gift (around \$10.00 value) to participate in the Now You Have It/Now You Don't gift exchange.

We hope you all will be able to join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and games!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby.

PRAYER PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

list Pastor Becky & Mark McGee, Growing Friends, North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School, North Hopewell-Winterstown Volunteer Fire Company, Glenn Grove, Donna Overmiller, Eva Miller, Doris Edwards, Dianna Henry, Barbara Taylor, Barb Huson, Randy Criswell, Eleanor Yeakel, Betty Bolyard, Sandy Wallace, Sam Cooley, Steve Shaw, Janet Vanderlipp, Sandie Rock, Trevor & Lucas Gannon, Susan, Jeannie, Connie Collins, Holly, Lee, Colleen & Family, Becky, Paul & Family, Brandy & Family, Brad, Wynn, Lacey, Shirley & Deb, Dawna Slack, Richard Slack, Lois Arsenault, Tabitha Gilbert, Steve, Tessa, Noah, Pat, Lorraine Gay, Sandy Marks, the premature baby born weighing 2lbs, Tammy Miller, Jami Smith, Brandon Kahn, Connie Stokes, James, Scott Kindig, the family of Donna Grove, Sylvia Riddle, Troy Hildebrand, Maddie's father, the family of Kenton McGinnis, the family of Delores Anderson, the family of Carolyn, Eleanor Kelly, the man who collapsed during the Turkey Trot

The family of Donna Grove wishes to thank all of you who supported us during this difficult time. Throughout her cancer journey, she appreciated the many cards, phone calls, and check-ins that she received. Our family felt your love in the many people who attended the viewing and service, as well as in the numerous cards we received. A special thank you goes out to all of you who helped with the luncheon.

Thank you,
Teresa, Glenn, Jeff, & Mike

Thank you!



1st – Amber Arnold
4th – Blaine Markel
6th – Gordy Forbush
7th – Mark Shenberger
11th – Tabitha Gilbert
11th – Ralph Latimer
17th – Dawson Gilbert
17th – Donna Strawbridge
25th – Sue Peterman

DECEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEERS

<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Sound and Media Shout</u>	<u>Sunday School Teachers & Helpers</u>
12/7 - Vince A. 12/14 - Bill W. 12/21 - Eunice C. 12/24 - Connie H. 12/28 - Vince A.	12/7 - Richard J. & Brian H. 12/14 - Deb S. & Brian H. 12/21 - Dawn B. & Terri L. 12/24 - Brian H. & volunteer 12/28 - Richard J. & Brian H.	12/7 - Dawson G. & Dawn B. 12/14 - Quinn W. & Amanda L. 12/21 - Bill W. & Tammy W. 12/24 - Volunteers 12/28 - Buddy M. & Brian H.	12/7 - No Sunday School 12/14 - Eunice C. & Joy H. 12/21 - Sherri F& Ann M. 12/24 - No Sunday School 12/28 - Tammy W. & Linda A.

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

D • E • C • E • M • B • E • R

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3  Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice - 7:00PM	4 Small Gathering - 2:00PM Praise Band - 6:00pm	5	6
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Communion	8  United Women in Faith Christmas Party - 6:00PM	9 Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Red Lion Corner Café - 11:30AM  Simply Loved - 3:30 PM	10 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice - 7:00PM	11 Small Gathering - 2:00PM Praise Band - 6:00pm	12 Growing Friends Christmas Program - 6:30pm 	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	15	16 Simply Loved - 3:30PM	17 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice - 7:00PM	18 BREAKFAST with Bethany Felton  @ Lion's Pride – 8:30AM Small Gathering - 2:00PM Praise Band - 6:00pm	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM CANTATA 	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service - 7:00pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26 	27
28 1st Sunday after Christmas Worship @ Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	29 	30 	31 New Year's Eve  Family Fun for New Year's Eve	<div>Dear Lord, You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.</div>		
Pastor Becky Vacation						
Family Fun Night - 5:00PM				Churchart.com		

December Upcoming EVENTS

2025
Growing Friend's
Christmas Program




Friday, December 12th
@ 6:30pm



CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00pm

Remembering Our Homebound



This Christmas season we want to spread some extra joy to our homebound members. We will have Christmas cards for each of these members on the table outside the parlor. Remind our homebound that you are thinking of them by signing the cards. We will get them sent out on December 15th to reach the homebound before Christmas.



New Year's Eve Family Fun Game night!

Last year was such a success; it has been requested to host a New Year's Eve Family Game Night at Church again!

Bring your favorite box game/ cards/ jigsaw puzzles.

What better way to ring in the New Year than to be with your Church Family?

When: Wednesday, December 31

Time: 5:00 PM – Until??? (last year it lasted until 2AM!)

Come and go at your leisure.

Where: Church – All purpose Room (APR)

Each family is asked to bring some food to share – snack/ dessert/drinks/covered dish.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the APR.

Don't miss this fun time!! Any questions, please reach out to Ann McGinnis at 717-877-5354

