

Valley Voice

*Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Pastor James Jacobs
Office Phone: 814-355-2208 – Cell Phone 814 571-5046
January – February – March 2025*

2024 has come and gone!

What a year it has been for this church.

Last year at this time we were celebrating Christmas and the new year in the old church with all the anticipation of a new church on the horizon. That new church was realized because of the hard work and tenacity of you – the congregation.

With 2024 in the rear-view mirror, we are going to embark on a new adventure in 2025 considering we're in the new church and the question is what are we going to do with it.

I am in hopes that as a church we can grow in our faith and implement some more of the outreach programs we had identified in our outreach brainstorming sessions.

We didn't get to start some of the things we wanted to start but the outreach programs we did start have been fruitful.

One such program was our Firewood For Good program. This was an out of the box idea and boy oh boy did it take off. In a very short period of time the program developed guidelines and secured funding to purchase the equipment to start the program and do it safely. The program is now supplying firewood to those that need it to heat their homes.

Along with our food bank that feeds the hungry I think we can now say we keep the cold ~ warm. The program is so innovative it was featured in the United Methodist Church Digest

which is the UMC's worldwide newspaper. Cool beans if you ask me!

I think the main take away should be the fact that this church, our church, is willing to embrace new ideas and when you have a new idea the church and this pastor is willing to empower you to go out and implement whatever endeavor we take on. That's important considering many churches are failing because they aren't willing to try new things, the leadership isn't willing to empower people and the end result is people are stifled and so is the church. When this happens it is only a matter of time until someone turns the light switch off permanently.

So, I want to leave you with this thought, 2025 is a manuscript that we will write, as your pastor, I will empower you to do great things in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Keep thinking out of the box as Romans 12:2, tells us, ***"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."***

Blessings PJ

***STRETCH YOUR MIND TO
EXPAND YOUR SOUL.
REMEMBER NOAH?
PEOPLE QUESTIONED WHY
HE WAS BUILDING THE ARK.
DEPEND ON GOD FOR YOUR
DIRECTION.***



**Greater Buffalo Run Valley
United Methodist Church**

Church

102 Trinity Court
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Annex & Office

112 Trinity Court
Bellefonte, PA 16823

**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE
WORLD**

**Sunday Worship time is
9:45 a.m. We are meeting in person. The
service is also posted to our Facebook and
YouTube pages. Search for GBRVUMC.**

**Children's Church is available for all
children and youth.**

**If you are in need of prayer or would like to
have a pastoral visit please contact
Pastor Jim Jacobs
Office Phone: (814) 355-2208
Home Phone: (814) 422-8164
Cell Phone: 814 571-5046
Email: jjacobs@susumc.org**

**Church Office Hours
Please Note the Changes**

Lisa Catherman, Secretary-Treasurer
Monday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**A Retirement Blessing for
Connie Peters**

You started on this journey several years ago, to be a friend and helper to all you've come to know.

You sought Divine direction and a heart to do His will. Your work became your passion, as you used your gifts and skills.

You set the highest standards for yourself and others too, showing honor, pride and dignity – we saw the best in you.

The priceless things we gain in life often come from Him. So watch the seeds you've planted grow, and feel His peace within.

We pray God keeps you safe and well, wherever you may turn, surrounded by your loved ones, living out the dreams you've earned.

And in the quiet of your heart, may you hear God softly say... "My good and faithful servant, I'm so proud of you this day!"

Adapted from Barbara MacAdams

Recognizing our Youth

Cindy and Dale Dixon's granddaughters were recently recognized for their accomplishments at school. We join with them in recognizing their achievements and pray God's continued blessings on their lives. Caroline was inducted into the Keystone Central High School National Honor Society on November 13, 2024. Her sister, Katie is part of a reading group at the Central Mountain Middle School. The 7/8 CMMS Reading Competition Team, *The Witty Wildcats*, placed 2nd at their competition in Philipsburg-Osceola on November 13. There were 10 teams total who participated from the region. The CMMS team scored 36 out of a possible 45 points!!

Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus!

It's been a while since the hurricanes tore through parts of the United States wreaking havoc and destroying the homes and lives of so many individuals. A group here in Centre County was moved by the needs of so many and began to organize donations of items that would provide immediate relief to so many. Now with the approach of Christmas, they arranged an opportunity for the community to donate gifts to help make the holiday brighter. All kinds of toys and bikes were collected and on Friday, December 20th they left the area with two trailer loads of items along with a donated travel trailer that will become someone's home. This is the fourth time they have traveled to an area near the center of the worst of the destruction providing much-needed help. They will work with local churches and fire companies to provide an opportunity for family members to select and wrap the gifts they choose for their family members.

We were blessed to be afforded an opportunity to help with the collection and be a small part in sharing just what Christmas is about...sharing love in whatever way we can to our friends and those we may not even know, just as the birth of our Savior did for us many years ago. Many thanks to those involved in any way.



We are blessed to have Sam and Sue Runk part of our church family. As you may know Sam has had some medical issues and now we have an opportunity to reach out to help them as they have so often done for others. Please contact Gloria Lohr if you have further questions.

BENEFIT BINGO

for Sam Runk

CASH BINGO + Chinese Auction & Rip Tickets

WHEN: Saturday January 11, 2025
Doors open @ 11 AM
Bingo starts @ 1 PM

WHERE: Piper Aviation Museum
1 Piper Way
Lock Haven, PA 17745



Sam has recently been approved to begin a new treatment for Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). MDS is a group of diverse bone marrow disorders that occur with a rare type of blood cancer that prevents Sam from having enough healthy blood cells. The recently approved treatment is required to be paid out-of-pocket and comes at a heavy cost. Money raised from our cash bingo and silent auction event will go directly to the cost of Sam's treatment. Our entire family thanks you greatly for your support and we hope to see you there!

Accepting Donations (food & drink; gift cards, baskets or items for prize giveaway) - Contacts below

To Purchase Tickets prior to event, please contact
Betsy Yoder: 814-441-4051
Kristen Colpetzer: 814-441-2445



Untangling the Airwaves: Wireless Networking

Wireless networking has transformed how we access the internet, replacing wired systems with easily deployable wireless devices that provide seamless connectivity across rooms, walls, and even entire stores. However, this convenience comes with an increased need for security to protect data transmitted over wireless networks. Fortunately, there are simple and effective ways to safeguard yourself while using wireless connections.

Self Protection: It's nothing personal (Firewall)

Personal firewalls are built into most personal devices and help protect them from harmful traffic. It is recommended to keep your personal firewall activated at all times. This firewall safeguards your phone or laptop from unwanted connection requests or commands from unknown sources.

The configuration of your personal firewall depends on your operating system, such as Android, iOS, or Windows. Default settings are designed to protect against common cyber-attacks with minimal user effort.

For more information about your personal firewall, refer to your device's user manual or contact the manufacturer.

Broadcast safely: At home Wi-Fi

Wireless networking has become an integral part of our lives, providing internet access for work, school, entertainment, and even home security devices like fire alarms and cameras. These devices rely on wireless signals to transmit information within (and sometimes beyond) your home. To ensure your home network is safe, it's essential to configure it with strong encryption.

Home wireless networks are secured using encryption protocols set by the broadcasting router, typically WPA2 or WPA3. For maximum security, it's recommended to use the most advanced encryption available. You can configure your router by logging in directly or using a web portal, such as those provided by internet service providers like Comcast or Verizon. Many ISPs also offer user-friendly apps to help you adjust settings, including your router's firewall, without requiring technical expertise.

When naming your wireless network (SSID), choose something meaningful to you but avoid revealing personal information, like your last name or address. Such

details could provide valuable clues to malicious actors. Finally, change the default wireless network password to one that is strong, unique, and memorable when setting up your device. These small steps can greatly improve the security of your home network.

Stay Smart: Navigating Public Wi-Fi Safety

Public Wi-Fi hotspots have become increasingly popular, offering convenient wireless connectivity in places like shopping malls, coffee shops, and libraries. Businesses provide free Wi-Fi as a way to attract customers and enhance their experience. However, public Wi-Fi networks come with significant security risks because you have no control over the other devices connected to the same network.

These networks are inherently insecure, making it unwise to send sensitive information, such as passwords, credit card details, or personal data, while connected. One common threat is "packet sniffing," where attackers monitor Wi-Fi traffic to capture sensitive information being transmitted.

To stay safe, avoid activities like online banking or shopping when using public Wi-Fi, unless you are using a VPN or another secure connection method. Taking these precautions can help protect your personal information and reduce the risk of cyber threats.

Broadcast Ending: Stay Secure and Connected

Wireless networking has revolutionized the way we connect, making it easier and more cost-effective by eliminating the need for extensive hardwiring and construction. However, it has also introduced new vulnerabilities that require proactive attention. By following a few simple security practices, you can strengthen your digital defenses, protect your personal information, and reduce the risk of threats like credit card fraud or identity theft. Embracing these steps ensures a safer, more secure online experience in an increasingly connected world.

This information is presented by **Mark Repka**. He is involved professionally in cyber security and we are grateful that he shares his expertise with us to help keep us safe as we navigate the internet

His wife **Emily** is our website administrator. If you have items you'd like to see on our site, please contact her or send them to her at emilymidler@gmail.com

Upcoming Opportunities

Greater Buffalo Run Valley Baker's Class

The 2025 baking classes are here! The second Wednesday of the month will be bake night.

- Two hour class starting at 6:30 PM
- 30 minute clean up with Questions and Answers
- Twelve is the maximum class size
- The materials are provided
- Students will bring their own utensils
- Donation to cover materials are accepted



The kitchen will be reserved at 5:00 PM to allow for setup. Classes are hands on or group demonstrations. Everyone participates and works together. The goodies made are divided and sent home to enjoy. The steps are demonstrated by the instructor. Then with guidance the students follow along and make their own dough to be baked at home.

The first two lessons are:

Bread 101 – Introduction to yeast, kneading, and baking easy white breads. This is a basic beginner's class to prepare for the Artisan Bread Class series.

No baking experience is necessary.

- Overnight No Knead – bake in Dutch Oven
- The Easiest Loaf of Bread You'll Ever Make King Arthur Flour

Honey Oatmeal Bread – Learn to knead. Yes, learn to knead. Honey Oatmeal Bread is a popular item for GBRV UMC. It is great bread for toast; it can be made into dinner rolls, or is the base bread for Cinnamon Raisin Bread.

Artisan Breads – Once the basic kitchen techniques are mastered, the students select what we do next. Any of the following are available:

1. **Baguettes** – Classic crunchy French bread adapted for home bakers.
2. **Challah** – Traditional Jewish Hanukkah braid breads.
3. **Ciabatta** – Extreme high hydration dough which requires special handling techniques.
4. **Mad About Pizza** – Handcrafted pizza party at the Church for your family and invited guests.
5. **Brioche** – Lovely light buttery breads, many shapes and sizes. One of the best breads for French toast. We can even make Jacques Pepin ice cream based French Toast. (Group Demonstrations)

6. **Bagels** – Authentic New York style boiled bagels. (Group Demonstration)

French Breakfast Pastry Classes include:

1. **Croissant** – a demonstration of laminated dough (think 27 layers of butter). Learn the tricks in preparing laminated dough. It will include Pain Au Chocolat, Centre County Stickies, and Almond Buns.
2. **Tarts** – Bakewell Tarts, French Apple, and many more options

For young people: Parent / Child classes can be arranged.

Class ideas include:

1. **Soft Dinner Rolls** – Make a dozen of rolls to take home and bake them with your child for dinner.
2. **French Puff Pastry** – Cinnamon Sugar coated delightfully light pastry. They are a great morning treat for sleep over nights.
3. **Spicy Ginger Molasses Cookies** – These are the popular cookies featured at our bake sales.
4. **Bake Sale Madness** – Team effort to make items for the BEA Bake Sale. Items can be cookies, quick breads such as Poppy Seed, Better than Starbucks pumpkin bread, small size (two servings) pies, or tarts.

Anyone with a class idea can come forward and we will develop a class plan. Other bakers are welcomed to show case their favorite Formulas. Until we get a stocked baking center students will need to bring their own equipment. Mixing bowls, baking sheets, and proofing containers with lids are desired.

Koding 4 Kids

What: 2025 K4K Kickoff meeting

When: Saturday January 11, 2025 at 9 to 11 a.m.

Where: Annex (Green House),

112 Trinity Court, Bellefonte Pa 16823

What: Who is interested, when is best time to meet, develop project ideas for 2025

Who:

- Fellow Scratchers' (coders),
- Anyone interested in building a video game or animated story,
- Anyone interested in learning to code,
- Game designers to create story boards,
- Safe Sanctuary Backup.

Please contact Curtis Knepper to get your name on the roster at kneppercurtisfamily@gmail.com

Winter CARNIVAL

We're excited to announce that planning is in progress for our very first Winter Carnival. This event is for parents and children alike. Bring your friends and neighbors. There will be something for everyone. The date is Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 1 to 4 p.m. Some of the activities planned include games and of course great food! We are looking for those who would like to exhibit items or share information with the community. There will be some surprises too! Watch the church Facebook page and website at greaterbuffalorunvalleyumc.org. More information will be coming soon.

Chi Rho Singers of the Susquehanna Conference in Concert

The Chi Rho Singers Choir of the Susquehanna Conference includes active and retired pastors. They will present an evening of sacred music for your enjoyment on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. This event is open to the public. There is no charge but a free will offering will be received to support the ministry of the group. The concert will be a celebration of God's love through music. Various styles of sacred music, both contemporary and traditional, will be presented.

Our dear friend, Cheryl Houser was a part of this group and enjoyed singing with them.

What's Going On – Can I Help?

Why not consider joining in? We have a place just for you and are eager to get to know more about you as you learn more about us!

News Crew – the news crew is in need of additional members. We have been discussing the publication and how and or what we can do to make it more appealing for our readers. More members might also allow us to provide an issue more often than each quarter. We have been doing so much that it might be helpful to have a bi-monthly issue. Please see Diana LaRoche or Gloria Lohr if you think this might be a good fit for you.

Valley Ministries Initiative/Fundraising - Often referred to as VMI this group plans outreach ministries for the church and community along with providing fund raising opportunities which support our ministries. Fundraising may not sound like fun but we have a great time with so many of our adventures. Filling bags and labeling items for the Ironman competition is an opportunity to meet new people and work together as a group sharing and laughing together. Other events provide opportunities to greet the public and make new acquaintances. We were recently able to help a hurting family by providing financial help during a very sad time in their lives. We also plan things like the children's Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat with the goal of seeing more families finding a place in our midst.

Community Dinners and Other Meals -Our community dinners are very popular but do take a lot of work. There are other events such as soup suppers prior to Lent and Advent services and pot luck dinners. If you enjoy meeting the public and serving people this may be just what you're looking for. Contact Lisa Catherman (greaterbuffalorunvalleytreasurer@aol.com) or Pete Peters (petepeters1952@gmail.com) to get more information.

We host a breakfast for the men of the church and community at 9 a.m. on the last Saturday of each month. It consists of casseroles and other hot breakfast items along with other sweet treats made at home. Once the men have filled their plates the women enjoy spending time chatting while they enjoy the fruits of their labors. See Gloria Lohr if you want to help with this event.

Other opportunities include serving as a trustee, liturgist, greeter, usher or helper with our children/youth activities. These lists are not inclusive and as you have heard Pastor Jim say or read his article on the first page, we are always looking for new ideas, new ways to reach out and share Christ with others. Many great things have come from one small idea but it's just an idea if you don't share it.

Women United for Christ – see article later in the newsletter for more information.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2 Reigan Golas
- 2 Dennis (Skip) Hockenberry
- 2 Nathan Greene
- 3 Cole Houser
- 6 Melissa Ishler
- 7 Jenn Houser
- 7 Liz Witherite
- 9 Reagan Lose
- 11 Lisa Deibler
- 11 Jackie Golas
- 11 Jaylee Lose
- 12 Denise Magill
- 12 Rich Poorbaugh
- 18 Angela Clark
- 20 Roman Henry
- 21 Brad Tomco
- 21 Gladys Fetzer
- 24 Jerry Dunkle
- 24 Jeri Carver
- 26 Bailey Little
- 28 Joe Price
- 29 Diana LaRoche
- 31 Winter Gresh

New Year - New You?

We sometimes talk about our wardrobe being “old.” We need some new clothes – at least most women do. The truth is, we are not bound to our old ‘self’, or ‘wardrobe’ forever which you may find to be good news. As believers, we have access to a brand new ‘spiritual wardrobe’ which reflects the character and nature of our heavenly Father. Our clothing covers us and provides protection. When we clothe ourselves with God’s ‘virtues’, we will find ourselves under His covering and protection. Our job is to remove the old clothes and put the new ones on! In Colossians 3 we find some suggestions as to how to accomplish this.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Repent and Turn Away from the Old Ways - A new year provides a fresh opportunity to confront and let go of the old destructive mindsets, attitudes, and habits that we have allowed to take hold. We can’t take hold of the new while holding on tightly to the old. Intentionally take off our old self and put on the

new self which scripture tells us is being renewed daily in Christ.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Clothe Yourself - Dressing ourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience is an intentional action that doesn’t happen by accident. It is done by faith.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Forgive - We cannot move forward if there are grievances that are pulling us backwards. When we take the hard step of forgiving the people who have hurt us it allows the Father to forgive us (Matthew 6:14) and helps us to become more like him.

Have Peace - Our hope in the new year is fresh. Don’t let anxiety and concerns fill you with doubt and fear instead, allow God’s peace to rule our hearts and our minds. God promises us His peace. The peace that passes all understanding and have faith that God is going to do the unexpected in the days ahead!

And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Be Thankful for 2025 and the New Things that are Coming - God’s plans for each one of us are for good and great things! Let’s be thankful for what God did and believe that He will continue to build on His good works in the year to come.

Are you still on track with that New Year’s Resolution made a few weeks back? Maybe it was to lose a few pounds and get healthier or keep your shoes sorted in pairs by season then color. Or it might be one of a hundred or so other things. Whatever the case, spend some quiet time alone. Stop the noise and find a quiet place to think or reflect or just be alone with God.

I heard a quote recently that went like this, **“Have you prayed about it as much as you talk about it?”** Got me to thinking...how about you?

GREATER BUFFALO RUN VALLEY UMC OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025-2027

Administrative Board (AD BOARD) Meets 2nd Monday

Curt Knepper	Chair
Jerry Dunkle	Finance Chair
Lisa Catherman	Secretary/Treasurer
Dale Dixon	Trustee Chair
Glenda Houser	SPPRC Chair
Gloria Lohr	Lay Leader
Gloria Lohr	Recording Secretary
Diana LaRoche	Women United for Christ
Lisa Deibler	Financial Secretary
Pastor	

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

Glenda Houser	Chair 2025
Cindy Dixon	2025
Lisa Deibler	2025
Gale Bowman	2026
Mark Leathers	2026
Debbie Houser	2026
Barry Ishler	2027
Virginia Hartle	2027
Gloria Lohr	Lay Leader

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor	Chair
Bonnie Ishler	2025
Lisa Deibler	2025
Donna Mitchell	2025
Linda Bathgate	2026
Glenda Houser	2026
Pat Armagast	2026
Gloria Lohr	Lay Leader

TRUSTEES & CORPORATION BOARD Meets 1st Monday

Dale Dixon	Chair 2025
Glenda Houser	2025
Terry Emel	2025
Barry Ishler	2026
Richard Stauffer	2026
Blair Free	2027
Jerry Dunkle	2027
Will Houser	2027

VALLEY MINISTRY INITIATIVE (VMI) Meets 1st Tuesday

Gloria Lohr	Chair 2025
Barry Ishler	2025
Bonnie Ishler	2025
Jackie Hughey	2026
Virginia Hartle	2026
Nancy Poorbaugh	2026
Diana LaRoche	2027

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meets as Needed

Jerry Dunkle	Chair
Curt Knepper	Ad Board Chair
Lisa Catherman	Treasurer
Lisa Deibler	Financial Secretary
Glenda Houser	SPPRC Chair
Dale Dixon	Trustee Chair
Glenda Houser	Auditor Chair
Linda Bathgate	Lay Delegate
Gloria Lohr	Lay Leader

Terms 2025* exception secretary and treasurer

Auditors

Glenda Houser, Tammy Leathers, Jean Walizer

Lay Leader

Gloria Lohr

***Secretary**

Lisa Catherman

Recording Secretary

Gloria Lohr

Financial Secretary

Lisa Deibler

Membership Secretaries

Barry & Bonnie Ishler

***Treasurer**

Lisa Catherman

Delegate to Conference

Linda Bathgate

Finance Depositors

Jerry Dunkle, Barry Ishler

Safe Sanctuaries Advocate

Pianist/Organist

Jean Stauffer, Pat Armagast

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Meets as Needed

Jean Stauffer

Chair

Pastor

Co-Chair Liturgists, Musicians, Usher, Greeters

GREATER BUFFALO RUN VALLEY UMC Financial Budget for 2025 approved 11/11/24

A. CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

1. Benevolent Support	\$	1,900
2. Connectional Support	\$	2,900
3. Clergy Support	\$	3,100
Sub-total	\$	7,900

B. MINISTER'S SALARY

1. Base Salary	\$	23,000
2. Social Security offset	\$	-
Sub-total	\$	23,000

C. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

1. Pension	\$	-
2. Health Insurance	\$	-
3. Continuing Education	\$	-
4. Travel Reimbursement	\$	2,400
5. Pastor's Electric	\$	-
6. Pastor's Garbage	\$	-
7. Pastor's Heat	\$	-
8. P-phone,cable, internet	\$	-
Sub-total	\$	2,400

D. OPERATING EXPENSE: Property Expense

1. Electric: old & new Ch & A	\$	12,000
2. Propane	\$	400
3. Garbage, CH & A	\$	600
4. Annex Oil	\$	1,500
5. Property Insurance	\$	20,000
6. Custodian	\$	3,000
7. Snow Plowing	\$	2,000
8. Maint & Rep, Ch & A	\$	5,000
9. Security Fee	\$	3,600
10. Sewer	\$	300
Sub-total	\$	48,400

D. OPERATING EXPENSE: Office Expense

11. Secretary	\$	-
12. Treasurer	\$	22,000
13. Payroll Tax 0.0765x(S+T)	\$	1,700
14. Music Director	\$	6,600
15. Phone & Internet	\$	2,800
16. Office Supplies	\$	3,500
17. Worship Supplies	\$	500
18. Conference Registration	\$	1,000
19. Postage	\$	1,400
20. Lawyer & Legal Fees	\$	1,000
Sub-total	\$	40,500

E. PROGRAM and MINISTERIES

1. Valley Ministries Initiative	\$	500
2. Women United for Christ	\$	500
3. Safe Sanctary Clearance	\$	100
4. Compassion Ministries	\$	600
5. Youth Ministry Initiative	\$	1,000
6. VBS/Children's Church	\$	1,000
7. Flowers & Funerals	\$	2,000
8. Licenses	\$	1,000
9. Music	\$	400
10. Guest Speakers	\$	300
11. Everstand	\$	1,200
12. UMCOR	\$	1,200
13. Food Pantry	\$	2,400
Sub-total	\$	12,200

Total	\$	134,400
Per month	\$	11,200
Per week	\$	2,585

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Erlene Jordon
- 1 Jane Rishel
- 3 Robert G. Flick
- 5 Sarah Scharf
- 7 Zachary Spearly
- 8 Penny Evock
- 8 Adeline Lose
- 10 Andy Houser
- 10 Evelyn Emel
- 14 Flint Baglley
- 15 Meredith Houser
- 17 Heather Little
- 18 Meghan Ishler
- 21 Izabella Catherman
- 21 Chad Ishler
- 22 Kristin Price
- 24 Kendal Tumlin
- 27 Linda McCaslin
- 27 Bonnie Ryver
- 28 Catherine Houser

Anniversaries

- 3 Larry and Gloria Lohr
- 20 Fred and Connie Shay

A LOVE LETTER FROM GOD JUST FOR YOU!

Adapted from Lori Anderson's Extravagant Hope

A LOVE LETTER IS A TESTAMENT TO THE HISTORY OF THAT LOVE - "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; with unfailing love and kindness, I have drawn you to myself." Jeremiah 31:3.

God has loved you...Read through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, and you will discover the history of God's love. You'll witness how God has pursued us, across generations. That's a love with a future; a love that will not come to an end. With that unending love, God gently and tenderly draws us in. There's no coercion; no demands. Only kindness and perfect love.

A LOVE LETTER RECALLS WHEN YOU FIRST MET - Jeremiah 1:5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb."

God has known us from the start. He's always known us. God has been around for every moment of our lives and has loved us through it all – the good and the bad? Not going anywhere.

A LOVE LETTER STATES THE DEPTH OF COMMITMENT - Isaiah 49:16 "See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands."

Wow! That's commitment. I've never even had someone tattoo my name on their arm. Imagine. God has your name – written (some translations say "engraved") on the palms of his hands. That's permanent. That's intimate. He holds us close – in his hands.

A LOVE LETTER STATES THE LENGTHS THEY WILL GO TO FOR THAT LOVE- John 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Most of the people we encounter would barely sacrifice their favorite TV show or sporting event to spend time with us. God LOVED YOU so much, that he was willing to sacrifice *his own son* in order to have a relationship with you.

A LOVE LETTER TELLS US WHAT WE MEAN TO THE ONE WHO LOVES US - 1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

We are precious to God – just as children are precious to a parent. God calls us his own children.

A LOVE LETTER ASSURES US THAT OUR LOVE IS SECURE - Romans 8:38-39 "Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

People come and go from our lives. Circumstances change. It's just a part of life. But sometimes it's painful when the people we were so close to are no longer that close.

It's not like that with God. There's nothing that will ever change the way God loves us; no circumstances that will cause God to move on to other things or other people – not even death. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Psalm 136:1 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."

If you've ever had a failed relationship, or thought someone would love you forever – and then they didn't – this one's for you. God's love doesn't wane with the passing of time, or change like emotions. God's love *endures forever*, no matter what. I needed to hear that. Maybe you did, too.

WE ARE A BUSY CHURCH...WE ARE A GROWING CHURCH...WE ARE A FUN CHURCH! WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU...COME JOIN US!



The month of October brought several activities that provided a

great time for all who participated. The first of what we



hope becomes a tradition was a Campfire Night. The games were hilarious – thanks Jackie! The hotdogs and s'mores cooking over the campfire was interrupted with an **unexpected scary visitor** but only the food got eaten!



The **first Trunk or Treat** event at the new church was a **howling** success. We had a good number of



families come and enjoy the treats from the trunkers passing out candy, etc. along with the hot dogs and games inside. We look forward to growing this event next year. And a bonus opportunity

grew from the event. The extra candy was collected by the local Altrusa Group and will be shared with veterans.



Pies, pies and more pies!

What a bounty of pies! Our (first annual) pie and ice cream social was held in the Fellowship Hall with many enjoying the talent of our church members' baking skills. You don't want to miss the next one!

Someone suggested we play the Pie In Your Face Game next time!!



Flu Vaccine Clinic - We were pleased to be able to offer free flu vaccines and blood pressure screenings at our church. Thank you to Leslie Wormeldorf for organizing this event and bringing her staff to serve us.

Men's Coffee Crew Breakfast—continues the last Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join us and bring a friend.

November brought lots of opportunities too!

Women United for Christ—Sometimes referred to as WUFC meets the fourth Monday of each month. We are a group of women that like to have fun, but at the same time we are there for our church family, each other and our community in times of need. Always looking for new ideas each month, so if you have an idea that you would like to do or try...let us know!! In November WUFC enjoyed sharing time and laughs at our annual Christmas party at Hoss's. Our secret sister for 2024 was revealed and we drew names for our 2025 secret sister. Many were delighted to find out who their secret sister was as they were guessing all year.

Plans for upcoming months include:

January 27, 2025 – join us at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall to make Valentine cards to give out before February 14th to Centre Care and Harmony residents. On February 24, 2025 we'll be having a "Pajama Night" that's right!! Also, we will be having hot chocolate and snacks while watching Christian Comedians! Stay tuned for March 24 meeting activity.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes—The children were excited to fill several boxes from the



items donated by the congregation. They also watched a video while enjoying their pizza which took them on the journey of a box from initial filling to delivery to remote areas

and allowed them to see children receiving their box. Thanks to those who provided the pizza and donated toward the shipping costs. We were able to provide approximately 35 boxes.



Firewood for Good—Our “Firewood for Good”

program has been a very successful event. There are plenty of persons in need of firewood for warmth. Persons willing and able to donate wood and individuals willing to cut, split, stack and deliver are welcome. Contact Craig Womeldorf for more information.

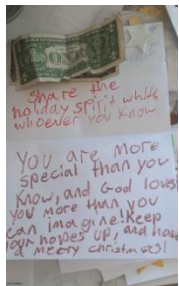


December was filled with opportunities to share the joy of love come down in human form with our friends and neighbors warming everyone’s hearts.

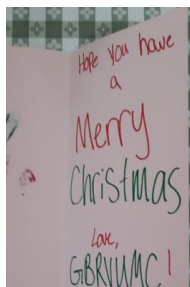


WUFC filled bags for individuals on December 7th. Volunteers delivered the gift bags and poinsettias to our homebound. We thank Erlene Jordan for providing

homemade lap quilts and other items for those individuals who will find them comforting and helpful. An especially sweet addition to



each bag was a beautiful card handmade by our kiddos! One child included several dollar bills in their card. What heartfelt selfless giving



A Cantata titled “Come Let Us Adore” was offered by members of the combined choir and instrumental group on December 8th. Under the direction of Jean Stauffer, the group diligently practiced for

several months to perfect the beautiful arrangement of songs included. The presentation was dedicated in loving memory of our dear departed choir member and friend, Cheryl Houser. We also thank Melissa Ishler for her narration. All those in attendance and those participating joined in a pot luck dinner which included lots of good food and fellowship following the event. If you missed it check it out on YouTube at GBRVUMC.

Gingerbread Houses—our annual Gingerbread house gathering was a great success this year. We welcomed back some creative builders and greeted some new excited kids and adults that were ready to show off their skills. There was even a very special visitor this year.



Our Children & Youth Christmas program was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and those attending.



Caroling at Harmony A group of gals went to sing carols with the residents at Harmony recently. We got to visit with our dear friends Gladys Fetzer and Joyce Hughey too. What a great time everyone had

Gifts for Families Using funds that were raised through community meals, Lisa Catherman and the older youth group played Santa Claus shopping for and wrapping gifts to provide a brighter Christmas for eleven children. Thank you everyone!

Special Offering Donations

Our donation envelopes continue in honor or in remembrance of loved ones or for recognizing special occasions. If you need a special envelope, please see Diana or Gloria. Those recently received are:

Martin & Ilene Shultz - to the Glory of God

Bonnie & Barry Ishler - In memory of Mona and William Emenhizer

Nancy and Kenneth Miller - In memory of Mona and William Emenhizer

Diana LaRoche - In memory of loved ones that passed away in 2024.

The Milton Family - In memory Cecil and Pauline Milton

and Jacob and Marie Houser

Fund Raising Report

The fundraising committee continues to explore new ideas to challenge our fundraising abilities which support outreach ministries in our church and the community. We were recently able to provide financial support for a family helping them through a difficult situation. These kinds of opportunities along with your participation and support are why we do what we do. It does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. You are the jelly on our peanut butter sandwich keeping us together and providing that taste of sweetness when we are blessed to be able to help.

The Honey Baked Ham sandwich sales during home football Saturdays were a huge success and it was so enjoyable to have them in the new church building. We raised \$2897 from our sales in the fall.

RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) gift card program continues. Please see Gloria Lohr if you are interested in more information about how to order cards. The list of vendors who participate is huge and they make great gifts for birthdays and other occasions while making a profit for the church! Our profit for the year was over \$1,000.

T-shirts our T-shirt sales spearheaded by Emily Repka were very well received. We had 47 adults order and we were able to supply 25 to our children in the church through our youth fund. The profit was \$141. Folks can see you coming and going!

Community Dinners Will continue the first Friday of the month. **Serving time is 4-6:30 and the cost is \$12 and includes drink and dessert. Eat in or takeout available.**

January 3, 2025 Chicken and waffles

February 7, 2025 Ham Pot Pie

March 7, 2025 Pork and Sauerkraut

Gardner's Peanut Butter Meltaway Bars and Candy Sale were available at the church for \$2. They were certainly a big hit and the profit was \$324. Candy sales were more successful than we anticipated. We sold about \$2,000 and saw a profit of \$700.

Our Famous Bake Sale was held on Saturday, November 23, at the BEA High School. The event was a success thanks to all that baked, priced, set up the booth on Friday night and those that helped work the booth on Saturday. It was indeed a busy time and very well attended. We appreciate everyone that took the time to locate our booth and stopped by to purchase baked goods or just to say "Hi." Our sales were over \$1,100.

Troy's Hoagie Coupons were spearheaded by Jackie Hughey who did a fantastic job with the sales. We sold 500 coupons and our profit was \$1266!!

We're always looking for new fundraising ideas. If you have one, please share it with Gloria Lohr or Diana LaRoche.

March Celebrations & Remembrances

Birthdays

- 1 Brooks Tumlin
- 2 Charlotte Corcelius
- 2 Ava Peters
- 3 Sam Runk
- 8 Bob Hartle
- 8 Patrick Ishler
- 12 Nicholas Ishler
- 13 Susan Houser Robinson
- 16 Robert Jarvis
- 17 Todd Emel, Jr.
- 17 Mallory Fouse
- 18 Chelsea Snook
- 19 Collin Emel
- 27 Jennifer Lohr

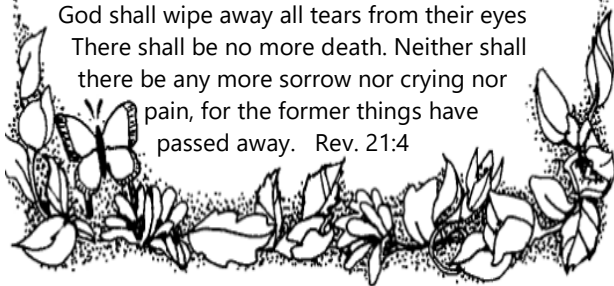
Anniversaries

- 19 Tiffany & Chris Hogue

*With our sincere sympathies to
the families and friends of:*

*Hunter Shaffer Harter
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Houser
Dorsey Moyer
Dawn Taylor*

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes
There shall be no more death. Neither shall
there be any more sorrow nor crying nor
pain, for the former things have
passed away. Rev. 21:4



Are You All In for Jesus?

I recently heard a pastor talk about being all in for Jesus. His inquiry was posed as a question to each of his listeners asking "Are you all in?" He explained it this way: If you're having bacon and eggs for breakfast the chickens who produced the eggs are contributors but the pig who gave the bacon is "all in". Think about it!! Are you a contributor or are you willing to give your all to serve God as he asks you?

Preparing for the Walk to Lent and Easter

Beginning the Journey: Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which is on March 5, 2025. We officially begin our journey to Easter on this day. We confront our mortality and confess our sin before God within our faith community. Ash Wednesday is about death, first of all, because this journey of being born anew to a living hope in Jesus Christ requires that we also die with him, "buried with him in baptism." We *submit* more profoundly to the means of grace provided for us. We do not "make ourselves better." Rather, the 3 aspects of grace are: Prevenient grace (God's grace that is operating before we are in any way aware of it); Justifying grace (God's grace that restores us to God -- as we become aware of God's love for us); and Sanctifying grace (the grace that brings us closer to God's way throughout our lives). Since we cannot make ourselves better, we need to let go, trusting God, through submitting to these means of grace, to make us more holy. We remember, we face up, and we fess up. We are mortal. We cannot save ourselves from death, or the second death. And we are sinners... in the hands of a compassionate God who seeks to save us, not leave us in the paths of destruction on which we are inevitably heading.

As we walk toward Easter take time to thank God for the grace he has provided you and soak it in filling you with all that he has for you. As you are filled, share it with others who may not have had an opportunity to hear the Good News given for them also.

May these words remind you of his grace for you.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin

Daniel In The Lion's Den



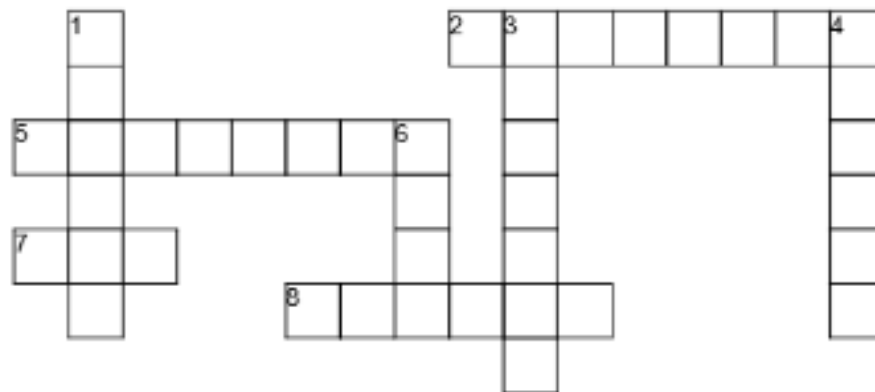
You can read more about Daniel in your Bible to see how he became God’s prayer warrior. He has his own book! Read about his adventures. Ask your parents, your Children’s Church teachers or Pastor Jim to help you understand or answer any questions you have about him.

God's Prayer Warrior: Daniel

My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. Daniel 6:22 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Daniel 6:1-28.



ACROSS

2. To be taken into custody by legal authorities
5. To be loyal, dependable, and true
7. A shelter or retreat for wild animals, such as lions
8. A faithful prophet of God who served the king during captivity in Babylon

DOWN

1. A solemn request for help or an expression of thanks addressed to God
3. To be saved from danger or harm.
4. The king of Babylon who chose Daniel to assist him
6. A large meat-eating animal of the cat family that has a brownish colored coat

FAITHFUL	PRAYER	LION	RESCUED
ARRESTED	DARIUS	DEN	DANIEL

Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

Worshipping to serve and praise the Lord at 9:45am, in-person in the church building. The weekly service is posted on YouTube at gbrvumc, after the church service.

January 2025

Acolyte Brian Myers

Ushers Kenneth Saxion & Brian Myers

Altar Flowers

	5	12	19	26
Liturgist	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser	Emily Repka	Deb Houser
CC Teachers preschool & under	Lisa Deibler TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD.	TBD Louise Knepper
CC Teachers Grade K-4	TBD Diana LaRoche	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD Louise Knepper	TBD Debbie Houser
CC Teachers Grade 5 and up	Jackie Hughey Curt Knepper	Pastor Jim N C Church	Connie Peters Linda Bathgate	Connie Peters Curt Knepper
Greeters	Barry & Bonnie Ishler	Barry & Bonnie Ishler	Mark & Tammy Leathers	Mark & Tammy Leathers

February 2025

Acolyte Kenneth Saxion

Ushers Craig & Leslie Womeldorf

Altar Flowers

	2	9	16	23
Liturgist	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser		Deb Houser
CC Teachers preschool & under	Lisa Deibler TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
CC Teachers Grade K-4	TBD Diana LaRoche	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	Gloria Lohr Debbie Houser
CC Teachers Grade 5 and up	Jackie Hughey TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD Linda Bathgate	Connie Peters Curt Knepper
Greeters	Linda Bathgate Lisa Deibler	Linda Bathgate Lisa Deibler	Erlene Jordan Kim Traxler	Erlene Jordan Kim Traxler

March 2025

Acolyte Any available children

Ushers Cindy & Dale Dixon

Altar Flowers

	2	9	16	23	30
Liturgist	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser		Deb Houser	Linda Bathgate
CC Teachers preschool & under	Lisa Deibler TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
CC Teachers Grade K-4	TBD Diana LaRoche	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD Debbie Houser	Gloria Lohr TBD
CC Teachers Grade 5 and up	Jackie Hughey TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	Connie Peters Linda Bathgate
Greeters	John & Connie Carr	John & Connie Carr	Craig & Leslie Womeldorf	Craig & Leslie Womeldorf	Craig & Leslie Womeldorf

Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC
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Bellefonte, PA 16823

Thank you to Grove Printing for printing this publication!

The generosity of so many made it possible for a local group of caring individuals to take their fourth trip to North Carolina with provisions for those affected by the hurricanes that passed through their area last fall. Their most recent trip included two trucks packed with items that, along with local churches and fire companies, will help provide Christmas for these families

We were grateful to be one small part of their efforts!

