

Round Hill Presbyterian Church

A caring community in Christ. Making Disciples for Christ.

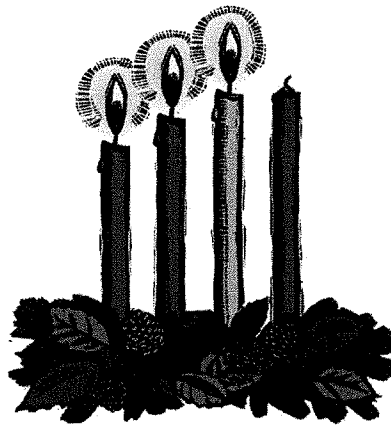
Equipped for ministry by Christ.

Organized 1778

2150 Round Hill Church Road, Elizabeth, PA 15037

Church email address: roundhillpc@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoundHillChurch
Website: roundhillchurch.org
(412) 384-5889

Assisted listening devices are available for those who have difficulty hearing. Ask an usher for assistance.



December 14, 2025

Verse for Meditation:

Isaiah 35:10

“The redeemed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

WELCOME

* INVOCATION

Pastor Paul Thwaite

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Thornton Family

* HYMN

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and Gracious God, your love is everlasting and filled with patience. In our sinfulness, we run away from you, yet you seek after us again and again. You have sent each of us out with the task of raising disciples, but often we fall short of being the people we are called to be in your Word. In falling short, we often hurt others in the things we say and do. Forgive the sin in our lives, Lord, and grant us hearts to follow the example of your Son, Jesus. Now hear our silent prayers of confession before you...

(Now follows a brief time for silent, personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PRAISE:

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen, Amen.

*RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

Leader: When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

People: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

People: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

People: He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

* GREETING - PASSING THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSION

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

SERMON

"Everlasting Joy"

Pastor Paul Thwaite

*** Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 90**

Q. What will happen to the righteous on the judgment day?

A. On the judgment day, the righteous will be caught up with Christ in the clouds and placed on his right, where they will be publicly acknowledged and acquitted. They will join Christ in the judgment of reprobate angels and men and be received into heaven. There they will be completely and forever freed from all sin and misery, filled with unimaginable joy, and made perfectly holy and happy in body and soul, in the vast company of each other and the holy angels; they will be particularly blessed in the visual presence and enjoyment of God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, forever. Such is the perfect and complete fellowship the members of the invisible church will enjoy with Christ in glory at the resurrection and judgment day.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

*** HYMN**

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF SELF AND SERVICE

* Doxology:

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

* HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” No. 190

BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE: *God be with you 'til we meet again,
if life's trials should confound you,
God will put His arms around you:
God be with you 'til we meet again.*

Prepare the Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.



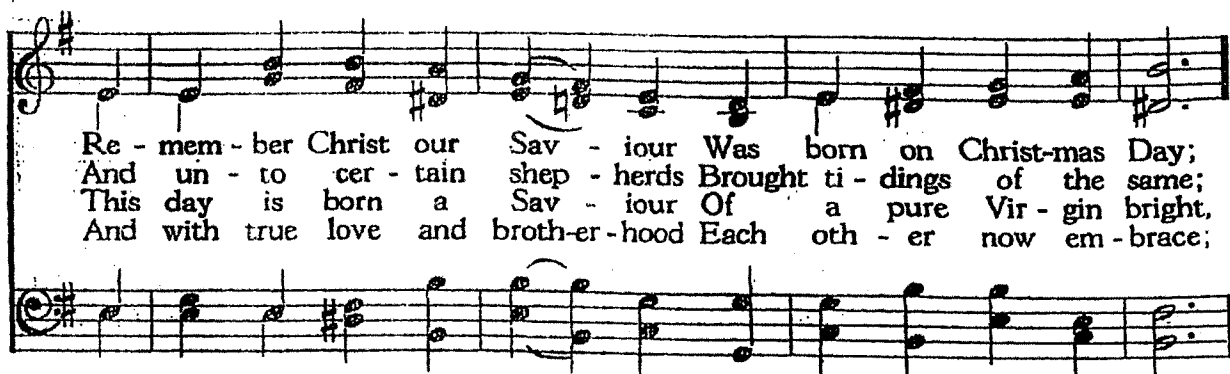
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th century

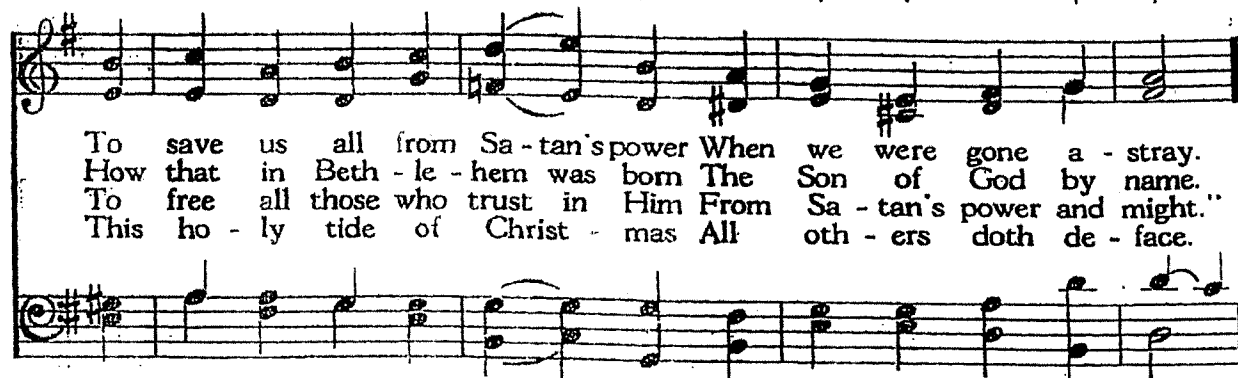
GOD REST YOU MERRY: Irregular, with Refrain
 English melody, 18th century
 Har. in *Christmas Carols Old and New*, 1871



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
 2. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came;
 3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright,
 4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,

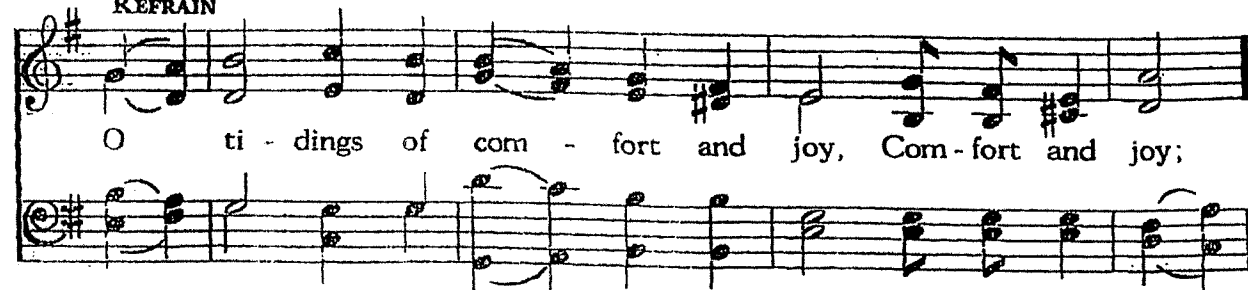


Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - iour Was born on Christ - mas Day;
 And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same;
 This day is born a Sav - iour Of a pure Vir - gin bright,
 And with true love and broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;

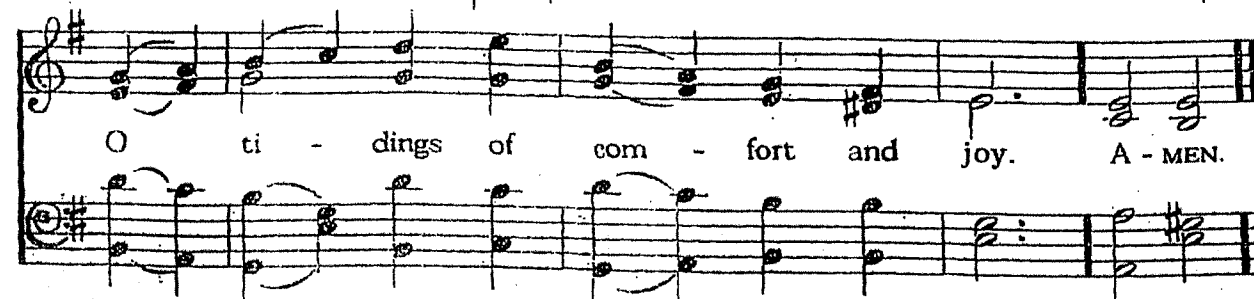


To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.
 How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
 To free all those who trust in Him From Sa - tan's power and might."
 This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers doth de - face.

REFRAIN



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, Com - fort and joy;



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy. A - MEN.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

... We have come to worship Him. — Matthew 2:2

REGENT SQUARE

Henry T. Smart

James Montgomery



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 *Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,*
 3 Wise Men, leave your con - tem - pla - tion, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 *Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,*



- 1 Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 2 *God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:*
 3 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:
 4 *Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King. A-men.



Liturgist – Bob Zirkle Greeters – Gayle Larcinese

STAFF

Pastor	
Director of Music/Accompanist	Mayim Stith
Custodian	Tim Guffey
Secretary	Mary Beth Katonik

SESSION ELDERS

Bonnie Craig/ Class of 2025 412-400-9284	Diana Hicks/ Class of 2025 412-384-3675
Linda Leggett/ Class of 2026 412-901-0149	Julius Simon/ Class of 2027 412-480-7260
Lisa Wagner/ Class of 2025 412-650-5482	Gayle Larcinese/ Class of 2027 412-860-4659
Clerk of Session	Bob Leggett 412-384-4175

TRUSTEES

Finance / Jackie Karnes	Support /
Physical Property / Fran Hicks	Corporate Secretary / Bev Harchelroad
President / Jackie Karnes	

DEACONS

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>
Laurie Ferraton	Robin Lane	Kevin Fritz
Tanya Jackson	Eileen Russell	Bill Leggett
Mayim Stith	Bob Zirkle	Leslee Schwirian
Moderator of Deacons / Tanya Jackson & Eileen Russell		

MONTH/YTD INCOME & EXPENSE

Month/Year to Date	Nov. 2025	Nov. 2025 YTD	2024 YTD
Weekly Offering/Gen Fd	\$9,105.00	\$125,145.00	\$136,105.00
Payments	\$15,301.00	\$128,409.00	\$146,103.00
Checking account balance as of November 30, 2025: \$13,070.41			



Electronic Giving Code



December 14, 2025

Intercessory Prayer Group - gathers in the C.E. building on Tuesday at 10:00 AM; open to all. We are praying for weekly prayer requests along with other concerns as led by God's Spirit.

Prayer Requests: Email dreamstogo2@gmail.com or fill in a prayer request form and place it in the offering plate. **Prayer requests for the following were received this past week; please include them in your prayers:**

Alex, Sally Brown, Bob Leggett, Cassie Reynolds, Jack Soncini, Blake Stauffer, Linda Way

On-Going Requests: Joanne Boback, Barry Branik, Elfriede Christ, Steven Evans, Caleb Fritz, Byron Harris, Frank & Sandy Hayden, Janet LaFrankie, New Life Options, Blake Stover, Glenn Wagner, Round Hill Home Church, Round Hill Leaders & Support Staff, Growth of the Congregation of Round Hill Church, Children & Teens at RHPC, Round Hill Church's transition, President Trump & Governing Leaders

Military: Aaron Baumann, Ben Elder, Matthew Gross, Corey Hobaugh, Hanna Meisner, Noah Reed, Aerion Salas, Joram Stith, Grayson Wonsettler, Samuel Wonsettler, and all those serving in the Armed Services

College Students: Ava Karnes, Audra Morgan, Luke Napoli, Corrine Wright

Special Prayer: Pastoral Search Committee, Nominating Committee

Prayers for POA Churches: First Presbyterian Church of Beaver (Rev. Arnold)

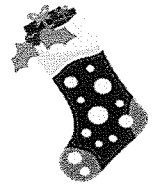
Prayers for EPC Missionaries: The Youngs (South Asia)

Always pray and never give up. – Luke 18:1



RHPC
Announcements
December 14, 2025

December



This Week at Round Hill Church

Tues. Dec. 16	Intercessory Prayer	10:00 a.m.
	Thriving Survivors Christmas lunch	1:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec. 17	Food Pantry Truck	
Thurs. Dec. 18	Food Pantry/Clothes Closet	8:30 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Denise Napoli Dec 18

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING
AND COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

→ The annual Congregational/Corporation meeting will be held **TODAY** after the worship service. The business will include election of elders, deacons, trustee and other corporation officers. The election of the four at-large members of the 2026 Nominating Committee and review of the 2026 budget adopted by the Session. All active members are encouraged to attend.

Immediately following the meeting there will be a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

THRIVING SURVIVORS

The Thriving Survivors Christmas Luncheon is **THIS Tuesday, December 16th, at 1:00.** We will be dining at the Carriage Inn (1601 Lovedale Rd). We will order off the menu and each is responsible for their own bill. If you would like to participate, we will have a \$5-10 gift exchange game (this not mandatory). There will be some games and Christmas carols, too! This would be a wonderful opportunity for you to join us if you haven't come yet! As always, please let Janice Sherman know if you will join us or need a ride.



CHRISTMAS STORE

Elizabeth Forward Clothes Closet will be hosting a Christmas Store to help those in need. **TODAY** is the last day to bring any small gift items – Christmas or not – that you'd like to contribute to the Small Conference room (right next to Pastor Matt's old office).





LITURGISTS NEEDED

If anyone would be interested in being a liturgist, we could sure use your help! Please let someone on Session know or call the church office (412-384-5889) and let Mary Beth know. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Food Pantry is requesting **baking supplies for the month of December**. Please place these items either in the basket in the vestibule or drop them off in front of the Food Pantry door. *Thank you for helping those in need!*



FREE CHRISTMAS BUFFET

The upcoming holiday season presents some neighbors with angst. They are alone and/or unable to cook or afford a large meal. Wagner's Restaurant will once again host a free Christmas Buffet on **CHRISTMAS DAY** from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Note: The hours posted in the Newsletter were incorrect.) The buffet (menu pending) will include Turkey, Ham, Pot Roast, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, bread, drinks and dessert. All are welcome. Please spread the word to family and friends. If you wish to contribute to this mission, they will be accepting donations of cookies (2 dozen max), cans of soda, bottles of water, or cash. Please see Lisa Wagner.



WAGNER'S
Family Restaurant

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

There is an immediate need for volunteers for Meals on Wheels on Fridays, 6:30-9:00 a.m. at Central Highlands United Methodist Church, (100 Timothy Drive, Elizabeth). Work entails packing lunches and kitchen clean-up. Any questions, contact Linda at (412) 751-2230. *Thank you.*

