

2025

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And my God will  
meet all your needs  
according to the  
riches of his glory in  
Christ Jesus

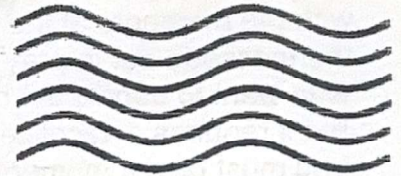
Philippians 4:19



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BETHLEHEM UNITED

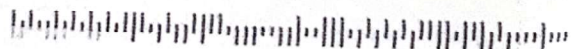
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 CHAPEL ROAD

WHEELING, WV 26003-4815



26003-260977



WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45 a.m.

COMMUNION the first Sunday of the month, with our C.O.M. approved  
Bill or Kathy Syphers or a Presbyterian, Lutheran or Episcopal minister.

Church Phone: 304-242-4407 (No Fax)

Email: [bupc@comcast.net](mailto:bupc@comcast.net)

Web Site: <https://bupcwheelingwv.org>

**>>>>CHURCH STAFF<<<<**

**Music Director & Organist ~~ Cliff Elliott**

**CUSTODIAN & GROUNDS KEEPER ~~ Dan Burns**

**TREASURER ~~ Eydie Garvin**

**SECRETARY ~~ Bill Syphers**



Many years ago, this church had a prayer chain. A concern was shared then that concern was shared with the members of the prayer chain and each person prayed. Could we do the same today? Getting the message out to pray for a concern or need is possible through cellphones. A quick text and all who want to participate can. An email can go out too for those that prefer that method. It is possible, but it requires a sacrifice on everyone that participates. The moment you receive the prayer request, you must take a moment and pray. It doesn't have to be a long lengthy prayer. Just a prayer for the person and their need or situation.

Is God calling you to be a part of the prayer chain at Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church?

If so

Text Kathy at 304-650-4289 and type in reply: Prayer Chain and your name

Email her at [ksyphers@comcast.net](mailto:ksyphers@comcast.net) with your name and prayer chain in the subject line.

*At Evening Gates*

As evening gates are closing,  
I stand in awe and gaze  
Upon a sea of solitude  
And offer up my praise

My Lord! My God! To Thee this day  
My thoughts were gratefully raised,  
For in its living I was shown  
The wonders of Thy works and ways

The flora at song in my garden,  
The clouds in symphonic relay,  
The tides playing soulful concertos,  
Were but few of the grandeurs displayed

More graces I could not desire  
Than those Thou revealest to me,  
My every need I found richly fulfilled,  
Free and unsparingly

O let me be worthy of blessings  
Far greater than mortals could ask,  
And if Thou should wilt it, assign me  
The lowest of one of Thy tasks

That I might make feeble remittance  
For treasures in which I have shared,  
I cannot return in full payment,  
No efforts to Thine may compare

My Lord! My God! The gates grow closed,  
Soon, soon shall fade the light,  
But still my mind be stayed on Thee  
In praise throughout the night

Don Beckman

The January meeting of the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery (UOVP) met via zoom, Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 12 Teaching Elders (TE) and 22 Ruling Elders (RE) present. After evening vespers, the Nominating Committee presented their ballot. Bill Syphers is on the 2026 Class of the Training & Development Committee. The Treasurers Report showed BUPC has paid all their per capita tax for 2024. An installation service was held for Treasurer, Connie Quinn and vice-moderator, Paul Todd.

In the Stated Clerk's Report, we were reminded our "Book of Order's" G-3.0202a & G-3.0301 states each congregation will be represented at Presbytery meetings by at least one Ruling Elder (RE) Commissioner elected by their Session. No congregation in UOVP has large enough congregation to warrant two RE Commissioners. The Stated meetings for the remainder of 2025 are: Saturday, April 26, 2025 – 10 a.m. @ Chester, Westminster; Tuesday, July 22 – 6:30 p.m. @ Bellaire, Rock Hill; Wednesday, October 22 – 6:30 p.m. @ Moundsville First where a "Scottish Heritage" theme will be enjoyed.

### **Items for Information: Committee on Ministry Report**

1. Covenant Agreements – The Committee reviewed and approved each of the following three pastoral agreements:
  - Wintersville, Two Ridges and TE Wm. Lawrence continuing their Temporary Pastoral Relationship; agreement is for 2025.
  - Dillonvale, First and RE Howard Monroe continuing their Long Term Pulpit Supply Agreement; term is for 2025.
  - Mingo Junction, First continuing their Temporary Pastoral Relationship with Rev. Vaughn Monroe (Amer. Bapt. Church) for 2025. Presbytery-appointed Moderator is TE John Edw. Harris.
2. Moderators Appointed:
  - TE Deb Messham appointed as Moderator of Barnesville, First.
  - TE Agnes Brady appointed to moderate for the annual cong'l meeting at Mingo Junction, First. (Presbytery-appointed Moderator is temporarily unavailable.) The date is yet to be determined.
  - TE Agnes Brady appointed to moderate for the annual cong'l meeting and officer installations at Bethlehem, Bethlehem United on January 19, 2025.
3. Trained RE Moderators-At-Large specific Assignment:
  - RE Howard Monroe authorized to serve as Moderator for annual congregational meeting at Dillonvale, First on January 19, 2025 including installation of officers.
4. COM authorized TEs John Harris and David Demarest to initiate and conduct a another training day for Ruling Elders, opening the possibility of Ruling Elders to officiate communion for their congregations in certain presbytery-prescribed circumstances. Information on the scheduling of this event – some day later this winter – will be included in our *Happenings* newsweekly.
5. Weirton, Cove was granted a waiver of rotation so that a Ruling Elder can serve an additional term, beyond two terms/six years completed at the end of 2024.
6. The COM is currently without a chairperson and getting itself re-organized to lighten the burden of the Chair, spreading out COM functions among more of the Committee's members. At its meeting this coming February the Committee will hear from a sub-group that is assessing advantages/disadvantages of Zoom platform meetings, optimal meeting times, and committee functions.

Leadership Committee is seeking a location for an April event, being organized in conjunction with Training & Development Committee. The Leadership Committee will gather for dedicated workday late February to produce a set for UOVP Manual of Operations updates and revisions to present to a stated meeting this year.

The Stewardship Committee was informed Warnock Community Church was named as beneficiary of property adjoining the church property by "Transfer Upon Death" document filed 2001. A property owner who was a church member died in 2024. The Church was not made aware of the document filing. There were back taxes of \$8,312.30. The party purchasing Church is interested in acquiring this adjoining property (which is in poor condition) in exchange for reimbursing UOVP the back taxes and closing costs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

## A Crisp, Cold Morning

How I love a crisp, cold morning  
To hear tongues in steeples play,  
While the world asleep and yawning,  
Settles in, a brand-new day.

How I love a crisp, cold morning  
When the world is sleepy... slow  
With the sun, a brand-new dawning,  
The breath from souls, as spirits go.

How I love the world's awakening  
Just to greet a brand-new morn  
When time is yours - just for the making,  
When the world... anew... is born.

James Joseph Huesgen



# FEBRUARY<sup>25</sup>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	Notes:				1 X 12D
<p>2 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	3 Y 1D	4 X 2D	5 X 2A First Quarter	6 8am II 3A Men's Breakfast	7 II 3A
<p>9 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Service</p>	10 Q 5A	11 Q 5A	12 Q 5B Full Moon	13 II 6B	14 II 6B
<p>16 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Deacons meet</p>	17 A 7B	18 II 8B	19 II 8B	20 8a.m. 9C Last Quarter Men's Breakfast	21 A 9C
<p>23 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Service</p>	24 A 10C	25 II 11C	26 II 11C	27 X 12D New Moon	28 X 12D
<p>7:00 p.m. Session</p>					<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>



February 4 Daniel Burns

### NURSING HOME & RETIREMENT HOME

Peggy Foster, Good Shepherd Nursing Home,  
159 Edington Lane, Wheeling, WV 2600

Craig Garvin, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center,  
20 Homestead Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003

Tom Hostutler, Moundsville Healthcare Center, Room 404,  
2200 Floral Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041

**Our sympathies are extended to the family of Donald Hinton, a beloved member of our congregation, who went to be with the Lord on January 15, 2025.**

**Our sympathies are extended to the family of Dorothy Werbecki, a beloved member of our congregation, who went to be with the Lord on January 31, 2025.**

## *In Our Hearts and Prayers*

### General, Long-term, and Special Health Concerns

John Adams, health concerns  
Camden Brown, eye/health concerns  
Kathy Butler, health concerns  
Nancy Elliott, health concerns  
Eydie Garvin, health concerns  
Jerry Hinton, health concerns  
Nancy Hinton, health concerns  
Nancy Hostutler, health concerns  
Anita Marvin, health concerns  
Joellen McNeil, health concerns  
Nancy K. Mumley, health concerns  
Kitty and Ron Patrick, health concerns  
David Waites, health concerns

*walk  
in  
faith*

## *A Brighter Tomorrow*

Look for the rainbow  
And cast away your sorrow.  
Somewhere just over the horizon,  
You will find a brighter tomorrow.  
Sometimes our joy is incomplete  
When sadness comes our way.  
Know with our Savior at our side  
We can have a happier day.  
We'll always have tribulations  
And many a cross we will bear,  
But God will carry us through these times  
Because He loves us and cares.  
Every battle that we have conquered  
Helps us in life to succeed.  
If we just look for the sunshine,  
God will grant our every need.

Shirley Hile Powell

for *God* so loved the world  
that He gave his only  
begotten *Son*

# January Quiz and Answers

## ◆ Food, Food, Food

- Who was famous as an eater of locusts?
- What four faithful young men refused to eat the rich foods of the king of Babylon?
- Who traded his bread-and-lentil stew for his brother's birthright?
- Who had a baker who made pastries for him?
- What incident in David's life caused people to bring him all manner of foods to eat?
- According to the Law, what was the Passover meal to be composed of?
- What old man was deceived when his son dressed in goatskin gloves and presented him with a meal of cooked goat?
- Who served cheese, milk, and veal to the Lord when he made his appearance in the form of three men?
- What did Ezekiel's edible scroll taste like in his mouth?
- What judge of Israel cooked an angel a meal that included a pot of broth?
- In what book of the Bible is Canaan first described as a land flowing with milk and honey?
- What prized animal was killed for food when the prodigal son returned home?
- In what country did the Hebrews feed on cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic?
- When Jacob's sons made a second trip to Egypt, what food did they bring with them as a gift for Joseph?
- What prophet, who was a herdsman and fruit picker by trade, had a vision of a basket of ripe fruit?
- Who ate honey out of a lion's carcass?
- What miraculous food resembled coniaeder seed?
- What prophet purified some deadly stew and a water supply?
- Who cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit?

## Food, Food, Food (Answers)

- John the Baptist (Matthew 3:4)
- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 1:3-16)
- Jacob (Genesis 25:29-34)
- The pharaoh of Joseph's time (Genesis 40:16-17)
- His flight from the rebellious Absalom (2 Samuel 17:22-29)
- A cooked lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs (Exodus 12:3-10)
- Isaac (Genesis 27:14-18)
- Abraham (Genesis 18:1-8)
- Honey (Ezekiel 3:3)
- Gideon (Judges 6:19)
- Exodus (3:8)
- The fatted calf (Luke 15:23)
- Egypt (Numbers 11:5)
- Almonds (Genesis 43:11)
- Amos (8:1)
- Samson (Judges 14:5-9)
- Manna (Exodus 16:31)
- Elisha (2 Kings 2:19-22; 4:38-41)
- Jesus (Matthew 21:14)

## ◆ Not to Be Taken Seriously

- What did God say when Noah told him he wanted to build the ark out of bricks?
- What did Paul do besides preach, teach, and make tents?
- Who spoke when he was just a baby?
- Where did Noah strike the first nail on the ark?
- What is the first medicine mentioned in the Bible?
- How do we know there was deviled ham in Bible times?
- What was the name of Isaiah's horse?
- Where in the Bible does it say people had a Honda auto?
- Why didn't the last dove return to the ark?
- What book of the New Testament contains a fruit in its title?
- Why was Moses buried in the land of Moab?
- What would have happened to Israel if all the women had left?
- How many books in the Old Testament were named after Esther?
- Which Old Testament prophets were blind?
- What dishonest musical instrument did David play?
- What age were the goats when Adam named them in the garden?
- Why was there no alcohol drunk when the Israelites were crossing the Red Sea?
- Did Noah have a pig in the ark?
- Who was the fastest runner in the Bible?
- Who rang the first bell?
- For how long did Cain hate his brother?
- Who was the most successful doctor in the Bible?
- Why was a woman in the Old Testament turned into a pillar of salt?

Wanted you to see these "Not to be taken seriously",  
but would never have you trying to think of answers!  
Enjoy a giggle or two!

## Not to Be Taken Seriously (Answers)

- He said, "No, Noah—go for wood [gopherwood]."
- He was a baker because he went to Philippi (fill a pie).
- Job—he cursed the day he was born.
- On the head
- The two tablets God gave to Moses
- Devils went into a herd of swine.
- Is Me—because Isaiah said, "Whoa, is mel"
- Acts 1:14—"They all continued with one accord."
- She had found sufficient grounds to stay away.
- Phi(lemo)
- He was dead.
- It would have been a stagnation.
- Twenty-two—the rest were named before Esther.
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Nahum, Habbakuk—None have "i's"
- The lyre
- They were just kids.
- It was dry land.
- Yes—there was Ham.
- Adam—he was first in the human race.
- She pulled his ears and walked on his corn.
- Cain hit Abel
- As long as he was Abel
- Job—he had the most patience.
- She was dissatisfied with her Lot.

Recently I was introduced to the accomplishments of the late Rev. Sam Moor Shoemaker who was a pastor in New York City and Pittsburgh, PA. He was instrumental in establishing the spiritual foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous, particularly the need to turn to God as a way of coming out of alcoholism. Many state he was the best minister of his era. I would like so share what he wrote near the end of his life – he said “as an apology for his ministry:

### I STAND BY THE DOOR

*I stand by the door.* I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,  
the door is the most important door in the world ---  
It is the door through which people walk when they find God.  
There's no use my going way inside, and staying there,  
when so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,  
crave to know where the door is. And all that so many ever find  
is only the wall where a door ought to be. They creep along the wall  
like those who are blind. With outstretched, groping hands,  
feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door, yet they never find it . . .  
*So, I stand by the door.*

The most tremendous thing in the world is for people to find that door – the door to God.  
The most important thing any one can do is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands,  
and put it on latch – the latch that only clicks and opens to one's own touch.  
People die outside that door, as starving beggars die on cold nights in cruel cities  
in the dead of winter – Die for want of what's within their grasp.  
They live, on the other side of it – live because they found it. Nothing else matters  
compared to helping them find it, and open it, walk in, and find Him...  
*So, I stand by the door.*

Go in, great saints, go all the way in – Go way down into the cavernous cellars,  
and way up into the spacious attics – in a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.  
Go into the deepest of hidden casements, of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.  
Some must inhabit those inner rooms, and know the depths and heights of God,  
and call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is. Sometimes I take a deeper look in,  
sometimes venture a little farther; but my place seems closer to the opening. . .  
*So, I stand by the door.*

The people too far in, do not see how near these are to leaving --  
preoccupied with the wonder of it all. Somebody must watch for those who  
have entered the door, but would like to run away. So for them, too,  
*I stand by the door.*

(over)

I admire the people who go way in. But I wish they would not forget how it was before they got in. Then they would be able to help the people who have not even found the door, or the people who want to run away again from God. You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long, and forget the people outside the door. As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place, near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there, but not so far from people as not to hear them, and remember they are there too. Where? Outside the door – thousands of them, millions of them. But – more important for me – one of them, two of them, ten of them, whose hands I am intended to put on the latch, so I shall stand by the door and wait for those who seek it. I'd rather be a door-keeper. . .  
*So, I stand by the door.*

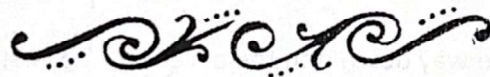
~ by The Rev. Sam Moor Shoemaker (1893-1963)



Since I am retiring as secretary of BUPC, this will be my final "Beacon". After nearly five years of "Beacons", I hope you have enjoyed the collection of articles I have found in Bibles of my Mother and Grandmother (where else do you put info' you do not want to loose!) and Mother's information for P.E.O. programs as well as my own collection of interesting info' (to me!)

I will miss being secretary and hunting for info' to share in the Beacon, but I have to admit, some days I feel like the nearly 87 year old I am!

This poem I must share – I first heard at a high school reunion dinner years ago and finally was able to google how I thought it was spelled and finally received the entire poem:



About Ben Adhem

About Ben Adhem, (may his tribe increase!)

Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,

And saw, within the moonlight of his room,

making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,

an angel writing in a book of gold: -

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,

and to the presence in the room he said,

"What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,

and with a look made of all sweet accord,

answered "The names of those who love the Lord",

"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"

replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,

but cheerily still; and said "I pray thee then,

write me as one that loves his fellow-men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night

It came again with a great awakening light,

and showed the names who "love of God had blessed,

and lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

--James Henry Leigh Hunt