

# † Jacob's Ladder †

Volume XLI Issue One

January 2025

*PURPOSE: To keep the members and friends of Jacob's Church informed of the ministries and happenings at our church and in the surrounding community to be **The Church on a Hill, Shining Forth for Jesus Christ***

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## † From the Pastor's Study †

### The Way Home

The Bible is full of stories. Some are long, some short. Some short stories seem to stand-alone, but they always exist within the context of the longer one's to round them out. For example...how kingship came to Israel is the subject of 1 & 2 Samuel. David's famous encounter with Goliath is a shorter story that fits in that longer Samuel narrative. Even the longer stories like the rise of kingship, or the collapse of it (1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles) are part of a much larger story, the grand theme of the Bible.

The grand theme of the Bible can be summarized into four parts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and reCreation. By far the story of Redemption gets most of the attention in the Bible. The Creation and the Fall are presented as facts. God made us, we turned away from Him. We need to be restored. How God redeems and restores us through the cross of Jesus by far gets most of the attention in the Bible. Most of the Old Testament says, "You need a Savior, but you keep turning away from God every time He delivers you." The New Testament opens with four Gospels all saying

the same thing, “This Jesus who died for you is radiantly glorious; how could you ever not trust Him or turn away from Him, the One who offers us so great a salvation?” Following that reCreation gets very little space but knowing God’s love for us and what He has created we can trust He will make everything permanently right. Praise the LORD!

The book of Ruth, tucked in your Bible just between Judges and Samuel is one of those small little stories that seems to stand alone. It powerfully fits into the Bible’s big grand theme...all things are going to be made right; you just need to patiently wait for it in obedient faith.

Ruth opens with an ominous tone. We are told there was a famine in the land in the time of the Judges. The period of the Judges was like a wild-west town without a sheriff; there was no king in the land and everybody was doing what was right in their own eyes. A man, Abimelech, from Bethlehem (in Hebrew Bethlehem means ‘house of bread’), decides to take his sons and his wife Naomi to Moab to survive. Although it seems like a solid, manly thing to do on the surface, it was not. He should have trusted Yahweh to provide for His own in “the house of bread.” Also, his two boys end up marrying foreign woman Orpah and Ruth, Moabitesses. This is strictly forbidden. While the family is outside the Promised Land all the men die. This is a huge red flag! From the previous book of Judges we are anticipating that the three unprotected women are going suffer mightily.

However, our God is a redeemer. He hears the cry of the weak and the afflicted. He rescues the needy and the lost. Far from being a stand-alone, feel-good story, Ruth is a story of God’s continuing intent and purpose to recover lost humanity. It of course has its drama, it’s ups and downs, but in the end, it is all up! We need to remind ourselves constantly of these wonderful stories of recovery and new life. We especially need to do more than just read them in the Bible. We need to live them ourselves which we can do through faith in Jesus Christ.

I will be preaching through Ruth in January. I invite you to tune in so you can learn like Ruth and Naomi did, that all suffering can be overcome by our great God. If we want to find our way home, we simply need to call upon His Holy Name in faith. *SOLI DEO GLORIA*

*Pastor Stanley C. Newton*

# ◆ Jacob's Church Board Meeting Minutes ◆

## November 4, 2024

Present: Pastor Stan Newton, Elder Mike Follweiler, Elder Mike Madtes

Deacons: Mike Bailey, Tom Foulk, Kayla Fusselman, Kaitey Sacks, Ed Sawyer

Treasurer: Kelly Mease Visitors: Jen Mease

1. Pastor Stan Opened with devotion from Joshua 5:13, and prayer.
2. Reports –
  - a. The October Treasurer Report was reviewed and a motion to accept the report was given by Kayla and seconded by Mike B. Motion Carried.

Total Income for October - \$10,311.95

Total Expense for October - \$23,127.60

Net Profit (Loss) - (\$12,815.65)

Less: Restricted Income - (\$13,920.92)

Add: Restricted Expenses- \$96.00

Net Unrestricted profit/(Loss) - \$1,207.27

Note: Net Unrestricted Profit (Loss) represents the profit ( Loss) of the General Fund excluding any Unrealized Gains ( Losses).

- b. Minutes for the October Board Meeting were reviewed for accuracy. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kayla and seconded by Mike M. Motion carried.

### Old Business -

- c. Missions - Mike B. reports the reorganization of the missions funds will be presented and voted on at the annual congregational meeting scheduled for Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
    - d. New Members Class – Stan reports the class has completed. Members of this class are in the process of meeting with the elders to share their profession of faith. New members are; Beverly and Mitch Hosler, and Brian Mease. Stan hopes to introduce all the new members at our Thanksgiving service.
    - e. Confirmation Class- Currently we have 8 young people in the Catechetical Class that meet Sunday mornings at 9 am. Stan continues to encourage current members to “adopt a student” from class.
3. Finance Committee -
  - a. Budget Meeting was held on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>; a motion was made by Ed to present the 2025 budget at the congregational meeting and seconded by Kayla. Motion carried.
  - b. After discussions amongst the Elders, Ron Belknap and Solomon Johri were recommended for the vacant Elder and Deacon positions, respectively, as of 2025. Mike M. made a motion to accept the candidates and seconded by Ed. Motion carried.
4. Property Committee –
  - a. Tower Leak - Mike F. reports that work has been completed on the tower and chimney.
  - b. Organ Repair - Mike F. reports organ repair will continue once it is confirmed that all water leaks have been corrected.
  - c. Fox Property - Mike F. and Tom report no updates on the Fox property currently.
  - d. Wuchter House - Tom reports that the painting of the exterior of the Wuchter house and removal of a tree on said property will be completed soon with the use of the sky lift.
  - e. Tom reports that repairs need to be made to the urinal in the men's room of the Activity Center.
5. Christian Ed Committee – No Updates
6. Children's Minister – Kayla reports a successful October Kids Night Out with seven children in attendance. She also reports that the created activity books and kids calendar handed out at the Oyster Supper were well received. Families that previously attended children events will all be personally invited to Jacob's Church Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon.

7. Youth Minister – Stan reports that a meeting will be held once Will has returned. Discussions of an “all sports” banquet for the Northwestern students are in the making.
8. Music Committee/Worship Team – Stan reports that Sunday service has been revised to more closely resemble previous services.
9. Sound/IT Committee – No Updates
10. Missions Committee – Mission Moments will be held the second Sunday of every month. Tom will be focusing on the Allentown Rescue Mission on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
11. Special Events – No Updates
12. Doctrine Committee – Mike F. reports that a committee meeting will be held in the new year.
13. Cemetery Committee – No Updates
14. Thanksgiving Family Meal – Stan reports that planning is still in progress. Family meal to be held in the Activity Center after church service November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up in the back parlor if you plan on attending.

#### New Business -

15. Kayla reports the dumpster behind the Activity Center needs to be moved further away from the emergency exit door. The light installed on the School House needs to be replaced. Playground repairs need to be made before spring.
16. Stan discussed purchasing a gift card for Ron and Donna Smith as a thank you for all their hard work and dedication to make the Oyster Supper a success. Ed made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Mike M. Motion carried.
17. Tom suggested other food related outreaches that Jacobs could host in place of the Pig Stomach dinner. Discussions in progress. Tom also requested a copy of the Music/Worship Leader job description as it cannot be located currently.
18. Jacobs has received a Request of Membership Removal from the Schlegel family. Mike M. made a motion to accept their request and seconded by Ed. Motion carried.
19. Annual Congregational Meeting - A date was set for December 1st with a date of December 8th in the case of inclement weather. Notification of meeting will be sent out in the mail to members as well as posted in November newsletter and church bulletins. Mike M. and Ed will complete their terms of service this year.
20. Next Elder's Meeting 11/11/2024
21. Next Board Meeting 12/02/2024
22. A motion was made by Ed to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mike B. Motion carried.
23. Closing Prayer- Pastor Stan Newton

#### Recorded and Submitted Kaitey Sacks

**Next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, January 6, 2025.**

**Next Elders Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, January 13, 2025.**

At our December 3, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting, we voted to contribute \$5,351.00 per week in order to meet our 2024 budget.  
The following tithes and offerings were collected in November 2024:

November 3	\$5,831.90
November 10	\$5,547.20
November 17	\$8,664.45
November 24	\$7,516.90

Budgeted Tithes and Offerings for January-November	\$251,497.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings for January-November	\$275,762.05
Surplus for November 2024	\$ 24,265.05

✝ **Jacob's Church Commitments for January** ✝  
✝ **THANK YOU FOR SERVING!** ✝

**Flowers for January**

January 5 Alan and Tammy Van Parys 35th wedding anniversary

January 12 In memory of Allen Newhard by wife, Judy Newhard

January 19 Jacob's Church Altar Committee

January 26 In memory of the Gabrielson Family

Cost of Flowers for Sunday Service:

**(2) Altar Vases \$30.00**

**(1) Floral Stand \$20.00**

**Bud Vase \$5.00**

**Bulletins \$5.00**

The 2025 chart is posted in the east vestibule on the Church Bulletin Board. Sign Up Today!

Any questions contact Pam Zoghby  
(610.298.3002)

**January Scripture Readers**

January 5 Aria Hermany

January 12 Noelle Rauch-Mannino

January 19 Stephanie Rauch-Mannino

January 26 Cindy Kuhns

**January Greeters/Ushers**

January 5 Jacob's Church Board

January 12 Jacob's Church Confirmation Class

January 19 Mitch and Bev Hosler

Dave Held and Patti Leiby

January 26 Rodney and Esther Mastauskas

Jim and Rose Moyer

**Sunday Morning Greeters arrive by 9:45am**

**Puppet Ministry**

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

Kayla Fusselman and Rose Moyer

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

Rose Moyer and Joan Oswald

**Jacob's Church Closing**

**Announcement** due to inclement weather can be found: On our website, jacobschurch.org, on Facebook, and broadcasted on WFMZ-TV CHANNEL 69 NEWS STORM CENTER. If you prefer, please do not hesitate to call, email or text Church Secretary, Faye Foulk at 610.751.5742, secretary@jacobschurch.org

**Online Giving!**

Jacob's Church offers the option to give securely online.

You can opt to give by ACH or credit card on a one time or recurring basis.

To sign up visit:

<https://jacobschurch.org/give>

FMI Contact Kelly Mease at [treasurer@jacobschurch.org](mailto:treasurer@jacobschurch.org)

**January Acolyte**  
**Kylee Matthews**

## ◆Membership News◆

### ✝ Celebrating with...

*You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.  
Psalm 16:11*

Congratulations and Best Wishes to The Following  
Couples Celebrating January Wedding Anniversaries:

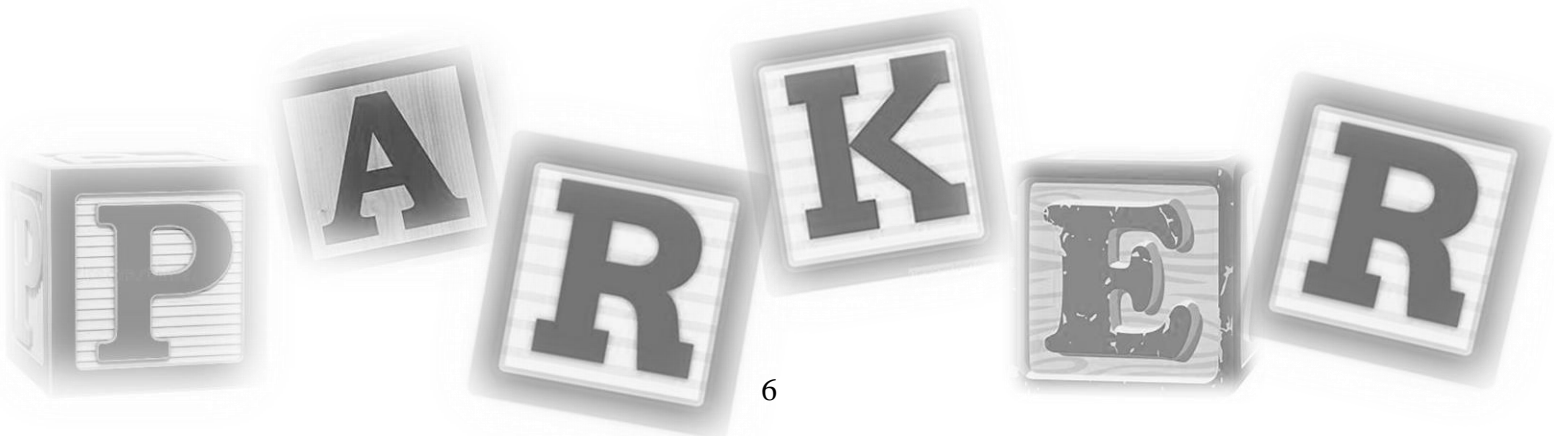
*Randy and Karen Dietrich  
Joshua and Amanda Rex  
Ryan and Katie Riegel  
Jeffrey and Linda Trexler  
Alan and Tammy VanParys*



### ✝Birth...

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh,  
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:6*

Congratulations to Owen Snyder and Kayla Keller! Their bundle of joy, Parker Seth Snyder was born on Saturday, November 30, 2024, weighing five pounds, two.seven ounces and eighteen.five inches long. Sending many blessings to the paternal grandmother, Lisa Snyder, paternal great grandparents, Donald and Eileen Myers, and Iris Womer, paternal great-great grandmother! Congratulations Owen and Kayla from your Jacob's Church Family.



## † Mourning the Loss of...

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away, Revelation 21:4*

### ***Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences***

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Jean P. Fronheiser, who entered eternal rest on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at the age of 94-6-16. Jean was the daughter of the late George H. (1894-1945) and Alvada C. (Hess) Fronheiser (1902-2000), and the younger sibling of the late Irwin Paul Fronheiser (1924-2001). Jean was a faithful member of our Jacob's Church Family. Jean was laid to rest in Jacobs Union Cemetery on Tuesday, November 16, 2024, service officiated by Pastor Stanley C. Newton. Please keep the Fronheiser family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

### ***Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy***

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Peter Miller, who entered eternal rest on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at the age of 97-6-1. Peter was the widower of the late Elizabeth B. Miller, who passed away on Thursday, November 26, 2020. Graveside funeral service was held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, husband and wife together again resting peacefully in Jacobs Union Cemetery, Please keep the Miller family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.



On Sunday, December 15, 2024 the new Advent and Lent Altar Linens were dedicated and presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ruth Arlene (Hartman) Kaley, who entered into eternal life on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Thank you Charles Kaley for the approval of this project. We are forever grateful for Ruth and you, Charles.



## ◆ Choir Corner by Melinda Kelly ◆

We are happy to welcome Caroline France to the Choir! Also, thank you to Carla Newton for assisting the choir and to Jen Mease for playing the flute for our Advent Lighting Song, which we used every week during Advent. I hope that this added a meaningful dimension to the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony for you.

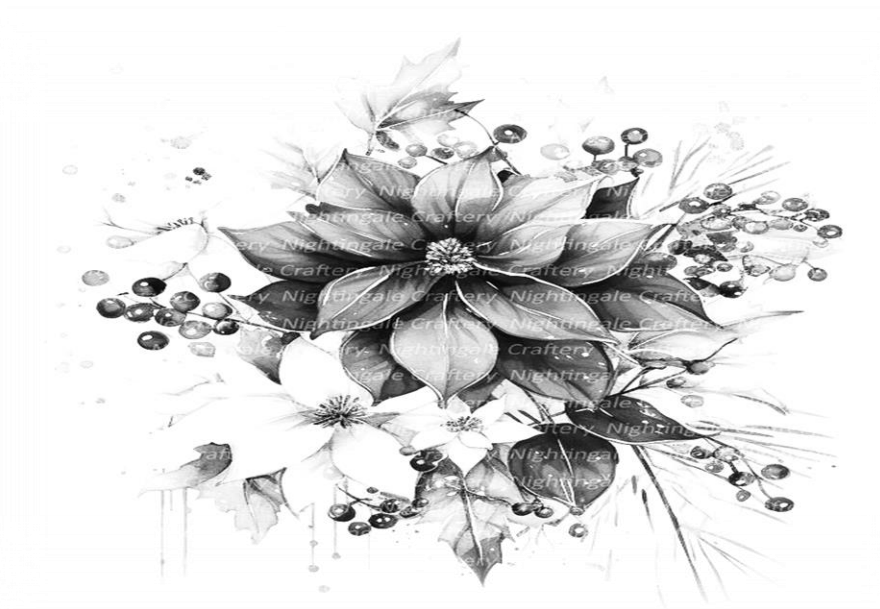
In January, the choir will be singing a chorus, “How Beautiful Are the Messengers” from the oratorio, St. Paul by Felix Mendelssohn. An oratorio is a large piece of music written to a sacred text which is performed with choir, soloists and orchestra or organ.

The text is from Romans 10:15. *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

In this passage, we have a picture of how the gospel spreads throughout the world. Jesus sends us all into the ends of the earth to proclaim the gospel. When people hear the gospel, they come to believe and they call on the name of Lord and are saved. How beautiful are the messengers!

If you are considering singing with the choir, you might want to give it a try during the Lenten and Easter seasons in March and April. During rehearsals, we work on how to sing correctly with vocal, physical and breathing exercises. Please let me know and I will prepare a folder of music for you. We would be happy to welcome you into the choir family!

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!





# ◆ January Happenings at Jacob's Church ◆

**Holy Communion** will be served on Sunday, January 5, 2025 during the 10:15am worship service. *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" I Corinthians 10:16*



**2025 Flower Chart** is ready for you to sign up for Altar Flowers on your special date for the 2025 New Year. The chart is posted in the east vestibule of the church on the Church Bulletin Board. (2) Altar vases will be \$30.00; (1) Floral stand will be \$20.00; the budvase and bulletins are \$5.00. FMI contact Pam Zoghby (610.298.3002).

**Love Offering** envelopes will be available in the church bulletin to support the Barnabas Benefit ministry on Sunday, January 5th and Sunday, January 12th. May the Lord Bless the Barnabas Benefit ministry, and we ask God's blessing.



**Stephen Ministry** ~ Christ caring for people through people. Everyone faces periods of difficulty. During these times, someone who will listen, empathize, pray, and encourage with Christ's love and care can be a tremendous benefit. If you need a listening ear, FMI please contact, Cindy Kuhns (484.529.2835). Stephen Ministers meetings will be held on Thursday, January 2nd and Thursday, January 16th.

**Cards Of Encouragement Ministry** ~ "Thinking of you" cards to be sent are in the parlor area, please take the time to sign each card before or after Sunday worship. FMI, please contact Rose Moyer (484.769.7926), or to offer a name in need.



**Sisters Of Esther** ~ Come and share in wonderful fellowship with Sisters in Christ every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am in Jacob's Activity Center! FMI, please contact Donna Shay (610.739.1867).

**Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer** ~ Join us as we explore the word of God together and pray for each other on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm in the Church Parlor. FMI, please contact Pastor Stan (828.242.5388).



## LADIES NIGHT OUT

**Ladies Night Out!** Will meet on Monday, January 20th at 6:30pm in the Activity Center. FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman (610.844.1567).

**IMPACT** ~ will be held on the first (1/4) Saturday, and on the third (1/18) Saturday of January at 8:00am at New Tripoli Hotel. IMPACT Men target their home, work, and community. Breakfast will be served! FMI, please contact Pastor Stan (828.242.5388).



**Mission Crafters** ~ Welcomes Woman of all Ages ~ Friday, January 17, 2025, 9:30am in the church basement. FMI, please contact Linda Besch (484.707.0877).



**Kids Night Out!** ~ will be held on Friday, January 10th in the Activity Center, 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm. Open to youth K-5th grade. Everyone who is attending needs to complete the Google Form registration online to participate. FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman at [kemptoncountry@gmail.com](mailto:kemptoncountry@gmail.com) or (610.844.1567)

## **Children's Church Christmas Program "12 Days of Christmas"**

sang and narrated by: Jeffrey Dietrich, Aria Hermany, Nola Hermany,  
Alexandria Rauch-Mannino, Quincy Rauch-Mannino, Victoria Rauch-Mannino,  
Samuel Sacks, Sophia Sacks

The "12 Days of Christmas" was originally a poem written by Catholic clerics and then transformed into a carol to celebrate this Christian event.

The song is wrapped in a special hidden message about Christianity. During the sixteenth century when this was changed to a song, the Catholic church of England was under severe persecution and needed to code much of Christianity, the bible and its' truths. This song is one example of that.

### **The meanings of each of the gifts:**

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus Christ.

Two Turtle Doves represent the Old and New Testament.

Three French Hens represent the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

Four Calling Birds represent the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five Golden Rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

Six Geese-a-laying represent the six days of creation.

Seven Swans-a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eight Maids-a-milking represent the beatitudes.

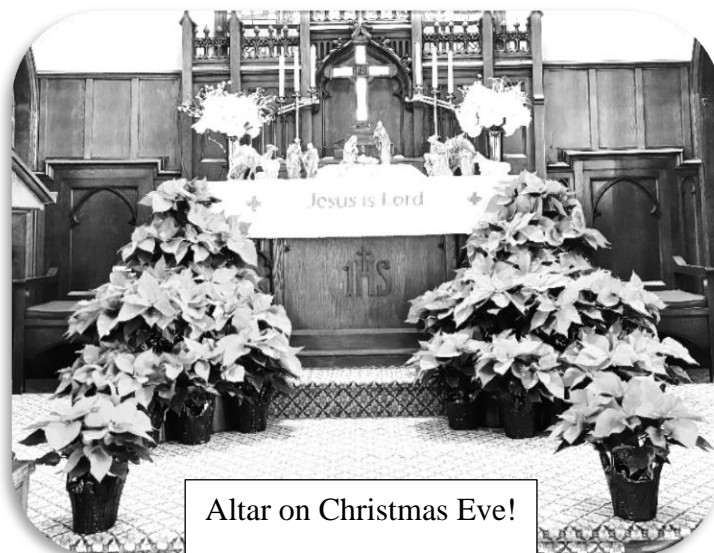
Nine Ladies dancing represent the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Ten Lords-a-leaping represent the Ten Commandments.

Eleven Pipers Piping represent the eleven faithful apostles.

Twelve Drummers Drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

### **"True Love" in the song represents God!**

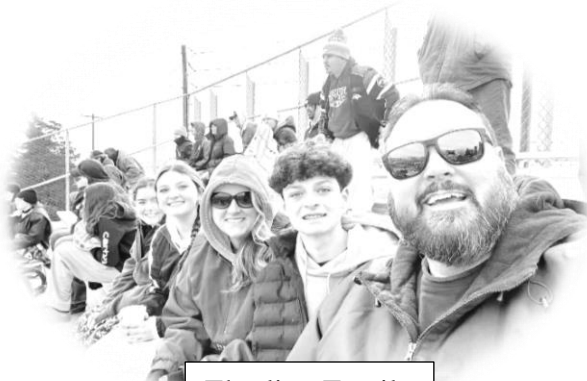


Altar on Christmas Eve!

## ◆ In the News! ◆



Rosie & Gavin Heiter



Eberling Family

Kevin Utt (R) &  
Crew heading to NC



Rhonda, Robin, Faye, Dana Billig



Lucas, Eddie, Tracey, Andrew Sawyer



Asa, Shepherd, Aria, Nola Hermany



Tucker Wessner Family



# ◆ Jacob's Church Little Lambs Preschool ◆

Little Lambs  
Christian Preschool

We had a fun month getting ready for our Christmas show! Our Little Lambs did a great job, we are so proud of them!! December is always a fun, craft, song and activity filled month we always enjoy with our preschoolers. Best of all we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and always keep Jesus the Reason for the Season!

**2024-2025**

Tuesday, January 7th  
Return from Christmas break



## ◆ In Our Community ◆



# CHAMPIONS



**Northwestern Lehigh  
Football**

**2024 3A PIAA Champions**

 **Lehigh Valley  
Orthopedic Institute**



# ◆ Missions ◆

## Panama Updates Nov. 2024

Hello all my friends and family. I hope this update finds you all doing great and are enjoying the cooler weather. As you know it is nothing but rain here the last month. “Soggy” is an understatement.

As we approach Thanksgiving and CHRISTmas I want to wish you all the best holiday season ever. We can be thankful for a ton of reasons. We can be thankful just for the fact that we woke up today to enjoy another day of God’s marvelous creation.

We can be thankful that we can actually read our Emails, because we have good eyes. We can be thankful that we are free to share our faith without fear of being jailed or worse. Be thankful that you can hear your kids frolicking and playing around the house. We can be thankful for our roof over our heads and food on the table. The list goes on and on. Personally, I am always thanking God for all he has done with me, as well, I thank him for the things he will do in the future for me. Thankfulness isn’t relegated to the last Thursday in November. It needs to be an everyday thing.

Now for updates. Eysbel is continuing to do excellent and has grown by 20 pounds since her operation. We had a movie day at my house recently and it was such a joy to spend quality time with her and her family. I am blessed.

The 6 churches continue to be busy as we just moved through 2 months of sermons in the book of Romans.

Mother’s Day is December 8<sup>th</sup> and that will mean lots more people in church. Yeah! Last weekend I had 3 church services and 4 movies in 4 different locations. The week before includes a funeral and 3 church services. I made some changes to the church service/day schedule to make it a bit easier for me.

I have 2 people scheduled for doctor’s visits on December 2. Both at the same time, right across the hall from one another. My health is great for an old man. I still can walk for hours in the mountains because God gives me the strength.

A joy I had recently is that one of the young men that I had in my Thursday bible study is going out on his own to do bible studies with his friends. Nice to see this fruit blossoming.

The CHRISTmas season is always busy, and this one will be no different. 13 or 14 activities in December, including a showing of the Jesus movie in a local community. All good stuff.

Another big blessing for me is the orphans. They are such a blessing to be around. They appreciate everything. And, yes, they are well aware that Jesus loves them.

In all the hustle and bustle this time of year, be sure to get some quiet time with the Lord. It is utterly important for your spiritual health.

God says, **“Be still, and know that I am God;** I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10.

Thank you all for your continued support of this missionary journey. It would not be possible without the support of dedicated Christians like yourselves. Thank you again. Finally, I will be back in the states right after Easter. See you then. Peace.

Joyfully Serving Him, Bobby Mo

Thank you all for the latest donation that was deposited in my missionary account!!! God Bless you all and have a very Merry CHRISTmas.  
Bobby Mo



**Barnabas Benefit Mission Moment will be held on  
Sunday, January 12th during worship service.  
Love offerings will also be available in church bulletins  
on Sunday, January 5th and Sunday, January 12th.**

Barnabas Benefit is a ministry started in 2015 by John and Natalie Teufel of Schnecksville. They connect U.S.-based financial donors with native volunteer workers to help meet the significant physical and spiritual needs of people in neglected, very rural areas of primarily India, but also in neighboring countries Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. The primary way these native workers are permitted to introduce the gospel to the non-Christian peoples is to arrange the drilling borewells to provide fresh drinking water to village areas to alleviate the sickness and death caused by drinking contaminated water. In gratitude, village officials then permit the workers to show the Jesus video via portable projectors. Resulting in many converts to Christ. The converts organize into house churches. Barnabas Benefit also makes microloans to help individuals start small businesses by which to support themselves and their families. The ministry also funds emergency food and blankets to those in life-threatening need.

**BARNABAS BENEFIT DECEMBER 2024**

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you and your family during this most holy season of the birth of our Lord.

This is a hurried update during a brief interlude in our packed December schedule.

Our volunteer open enrollment Medicare duties ended in the 1st week followed by a packed travel schedule. Natalie and I just returned from an awesome trip to the former Soviet land of Latvia last night. More details soon. I spoke to an awesome international church. I fell in love with the people, many of them Indian, and one from an area where we have drilled borewells. Also an interesting Vietnamese family that updated my now almost 60 year past there. Visiting a vacated decrepit Soviet KGB prison and interrogation/ execution house there renewed my appreciation of freedom.

We intend to take a meandering winter road trip once we regroup. It will include "long lost" friends and our three children and seven grandchildren; hopefully all by the end of 2024. Friends have taken care of our mail and all checks for Barnabas Benefit were deposited to our bank and will continue to be as we travel and I disburse funds as well.

The needs have been more than we have ever experienced and ,still even after many years, a bit overwhelming. Your compassionate and generous giving has increased and kept pace as each need came. Someday I may have 100% faith and leave behind all the fear that needs won't be met. You have given many, many hope and warmth.

We even welcomed our first timely matching grant check from some donor's employer.

We negotiated to purchase 3000 Book of John in Telugu to distribute to the curious along with musical instruments for house churches.

The needs are diverse but the monsoons and the winter have been devastating. I believe every leader has requested blankets, especially in the frigid Himalayan mountain areas of Nepal and India that need more costly warmer blankets since there is no heat in frigid Nepal and North India. (see pictures)



My heart was warmed when an Indian brother and sister, 14-year-old “Philip” and his 12-year-old sister “Cathy” requested 60 cheaper blankets to personally take to befriend homeless orphans on the streets and “under the bridge.” (pictures)

Neelam is recovering from her kidney transplant, has restarted her lunch catering business, started a teagarden school, and directs village borewell outreaches, etc.

Borewells and clean water continue to be the biggest need in the ignored impoverished rural/mountain areas. We have an outstanding years long working relationship with a driller who will venture far off the beaten path and discount way beyond rates you see solicited on TV. We contracted to do four wells this week. (and many more are needed in this district) Some are funded by families who agreed to forgo Christmas gift exchanges to give an equivalent amount to desperately needed borewells and needs.

In another area in the north with different conditions, we were asked to contribute to money the villagers raised to buy equipment and supplies and send their young men to dig wells (and make friends). I somewhat reluctantly agreed but now find out with some chagrin that they drilled scores of wells. They want to do it again in a different area and have raised almost \$1000 although much more was and will be needed. Although I “don’t keep score” based on a mistake I read a leader made in a Bible story, the results I’ve heard are beyond amazing. I thank God for the ways He has used these young disciples to make their way into the remote new areas where no one cares to venture.

Microloans continue to do well and there are many sewing school graduates looking for sewing machines. We had our first male graduate who left a life that was sure to end early for a sewing and embroidery career with hope and a future. Other are starting businesses serving tea on the street, selling biscuits (cookies), vegetables, etc. All are becoming “tentmakers” like the Apostle Paul and relationship builders.

We are doing various things to help recently orphaned war refugees, the blind, poor widows, and our friends in two leper conclaves and several orphanages. We have recently donated a small water filtration system and solar energy in the border areas of Manipur for the orphans there. We are providing socks and blankets for them and as many other refugees as possible.

Sometimes I forget that it is Christmas with personal hopes there too. The lepers in Erode said “tell John to come, (and added “bring Christmas gifts!”).

I try to personally (aside from your donations) provide a little extra for our unpaid leaders for their kids because I am a long-time parent. I received this attached simple “Santa letter today” from a poor medical missionaries child. As Natalie can attest, a Tootsie Roll Pop or a pencil is treasure to many of these children and school supplies are treasured like “gold” in the schools our leaders start.

I had an interesting encounter today. Because of all the donations I made from Latvia, my bank/ transfer account was shut off until I could be questioned early this morning. After submitting a picture of my passport. etc. and a “moving selfie” to prove it was really me, I was subjected to a long list of questions. I truthfully told the lady the money was going to friends in India and Nepal. (only friends and family allowed) She responded that she was married to an Indian Dr. who grew up on the streets of Kolkata in the early two thousands. I told her of my first encounter with 8 special children from the red light/railroad yard slums of Kolkata in 2008 who stole my heart. That led to what we do now. I couldn’t have guessed that God would open a thirty plus minute opportunity to tell our story to a Fraud Alert specialist with open ears and heart. She promised to pray and she made my day!

Off for another new adventure looking for charging stations going west and then back to PA.

Blessings, John & Natalie and those we increasingly count on for prayer, help, and advice

## BARNABAS BENEFIT CONNECTING CARING HEARTS WITH NEEDS WORLDWIDE

I am so thankful for you! I have so much to be thankful for this year, but I was reminded in the wee hours this morning (Indian time is 9 ½ hours ahead of us in EST) just how much you have enabled so many with your faithful prayers and giving. The message was from a young man that I have known for many years and through many hardships. I know many of you identify Barnabas Benefit with some of our larger projects like borewells, sewing machines, bicycles, projectors, and mass refugee food and blanket outreaches.

As I sat contemplating his message, I realized how blessed I am to have friends like you to help change lives—some en masse like the village borewells for hundreds of families. and some one by one with smaller individual gifts. What this young man has gone through is hard to fathom to the point of him totally giving up even though I've been through it with him. Since I met him in Kolkata in 2016, he has touched many hundreds of lives. He is coming out of another series of setbacks alone in a new area after recent surgery. (Cooking rice in a cleaned-out paint can and sheltering and sleeping in Monsoon downpours and dampness) He is hoping to start over, make friends and learn the local language with a dictionary “in 3-4 months”, all while recovering from major surgery. I have seen him amazingly endure this and more in the past and bounce back.

But this morning, thanks to a faithful monthly donor, I sent a 3 AM transfer that will address the above basics to keep him going with things that we take for granted.

Thank you so much for your prayers, faithfulness, and trust that enables us to provide hope to the countless hopeless families, refugees, and recent orphans through a caring dedicated group of volunteer leaders like him “on the ground.”

May God continue to bless you and your family abundantly this Thanksgiving season for answering His “still small voice.” to provide for needs and bring hope to many.

Please include a prayer of blessing for those who make this possible with your giving when you say your prayer of Thanksgiving over our awesome families and feasts today.

Thank you again for all you have and are faithfully enabling.

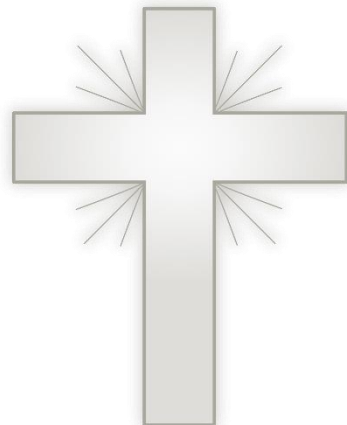
You are special to me (us) and I am so grateful for your trust and friendship.

Thanksgiving blessings! John

P.S. I am especially thankful for Natalie, my 55-year life partner, being cancer free after a difficult 18-month journey.



*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.  
Matthew 5:16*



## ◆ Thank You! ◆

*Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 106:1*



Special Thank You to Ron and Donna Smith of Valley View Christmas Tree Farm, for donating this year's Christmas tree! This snow-kissed spruce and twinkling lights reflect the warm glow of God's love for us! A shout out to Pastor Stan and Ed Sawyer for their expertise in setting up the tree. Thank you to the Altar Committee, Faye Foulk and Pam Zoghby for trimming the tree.



Thank you to the Ladies Night Out and Mission Crafters for preparing gifts for our homebound Jacob's Church members! Pastor Stan and Will had a wonderful time visiting everyone! We are truly blessed!

Jacob's Church would like to thank Corinne Bast for faithfully serving on the Altar Committee for twenty plus years. Your consistent dedication has been a true testament of your love for our Lord and Jacob's Church. Thank you, Corinne for being a shining light in our congregation.

Jen Mease has joined the Altar Committee Team. Welcome Jen!

My Jacob's Church Family,  
Thanks so much! A simple act of kindness has a beauty all its own! Thank you for the Christmas gift and card. I appreciate so much that you are thinking of me.  
God Bless! Anna Lou Oswald





A Big Shout Out to Ron and Donna Smith, Valley View Christmas Tree Farm for donating the tree for the annual Ontelaunee Tree Lighting. A special thank you to Dave & Pam Zoghby, and Tom & Faye Foulk for decorating the tree! You six rock!

Dear Jacob's Church Family,  
Thank you for the Christmas gifts! I really appreciate your thoughtfulness, Ladies Night Out and Mission Crafters. The visit from Pastor Stan and Will was truly a blessing. Thank you Pastor Stan for thinking about me in Texas. Thank you again my Jacob's Church family.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
your sister in Christ, Rhonda Lindahl



Thank you Mission Crafters and Linda Besch for all the wonderful Christmas ornaments you shared with all of us. Your thoughtfulness and special gift is greatly appreciated. Many Blessings, Your Jacob's Church Family



Christmas Greetings and thank you from:  
FOCUS on the FAMILY  
The Voice of the Martyrs  
Franklin Graham, Samaritan's Purse  
Dave and Katie Brindley  
LC Medical

Poinsettias To Beautify  
Our Sanctuary  
Have Been Presented By:

**Cynthia L. Christman**

Thanks be to God

for my parents, Clarence & Lorraine Eschbach

**David Follweiler, Susan & Bob Stufflet,**

**Mike & Denise Follweiler & Families**

In Loving Memory of parents, Ralph & Pearl Follweiler

In Loving Memory of Howard & Arlene Hamm

**Tom and Faye Foulk**

In Loving Memory of Parents, William & Shirley Foulk

and Howard & Hattie Smith

**Shirley Greenawalt**

To the Honor and Glory of God

**Debra Hermany**

In Honor of the Hermany/Follweiler forefathers family

**Ralph and Louise Hill**

To God be the Glory!

Thank you Jesus for coming to earth for our salvation!

**Audra Horwith**

In loving memory of Donna Farber

**Michael & Melinda Kelly**

In Loving Memory of Mother, Phyllis Manwiller

**Gary and Carolyn Krick**

Jesus the Light of the World...Believe It!

**Patti Leiby**

In Loving Memory of all our family members  
who have passed

**Rhonda Lindahl**

In Loving Memory of my husband, John Lindahl  
and my parents, Lester and Marion Hamm

**Perry & Liz Long**

Glory to God in the Highest

**Rod & Esther Mastauskas**

In Loving Memory of Loved Ones

**Jim and Rose Moyer**

To the Glory of God

**Judy Newhard**

In Loving Memory of our loved ones

**Sabrina Pendleton**

In Loving Memory of Lawrence Heintzelman Jr  
& Robin Pendleton

**Dianne Ralston**

In Loving Memory of Larry Ralston

**Ralph and Diane Wertman**

We gave God all Glory for His son, Jesus

**Dave and Pam Zoghby**

To the Honor and Glory of God

**Verdie Bailey**

As his memorial states, a floral arrangement  
has been placed at his gravesite

Thank you  
Everyone!  
Many Blessings

# **JACOB'S CHURCH ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT**

***"THE CHURCH ON A HILL, SHINING FORTH FOR JESUS CHRIST"***

December 26, 2024

Happenings in Jacob's Church Activity Center during the month of December.....

Sisters of Esther held their meetings on Tuesday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th; starting at 9:30am and ending approximately at 11:30am. Decided not to meet Tuesday, December 24th or December 31st.

Stephen Ministers held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 5th and Thursday, December 19th.

Jacob's Church Board meeting was held on Monday, December 2nd in the church basement. Missions Crafters gathered on Friday, December 13th and Friday, December 20th.

Private celebrations were held on Saturday, December 7th and December 14th, and Sunday, December 8th and December 15th.

Kutztown Twirlers practiced on Friday, December 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, 5:00pm ~ 9:00pm in the gym. NWL Twirlers practiced on Monday, December 2nd, 4:30pm ~ 9:00pm. The group will resume after the holidays in January 2025. This month NWL NYAA Basketball started their season, the group will be using the facility each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday approximate times 5:30pm ~ 9:00pm.

Abiding Arrow Home School held their sessions on Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm. The group also had a time of prayer on Wednesday, December 4th, and 18th, 11:00am ~ 12:30pm. NWL-FCA held meetings on Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Will resume after the holidays. NYAA Cheerleaders practiced over the Christmas break on Thursday, December 26th and Monday, December 30th, 6:00pm-8:00pm for their upcoming events.

IMPACT is meeting the first and third Saturday of each month at the New Tripoli Hotel.

God Bless You, Faye M Smith Foulk

A big shout out to Kayla Fusselman, Aria Hermany, Carolyn Krick, Katie Sacks, and Charlene Silva for helping with the Christmas Card Exchange! A special thank you to the Altar Committee, Faye Foulk, Jen Mease and Pam Zoghby for taking the time to set up for Christmas Eve. Thank you all.



# January

# 2025

## Scheduled Church Activities

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and  
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you”.*  
*Isaiah 60:1*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year!	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	3	4
5 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship Holy Communion	6 Church Board Meeting 7pm	7 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	8 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	9 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	10 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	11
12 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship	13 Elders Meeting 7pm	14 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	15 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	16 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	17 Mission Crafters 9:30am	18
19 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship	20	21 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	22 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	23 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	24	25
26 9:00 SS 10:15am Worship	27	28 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	29 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	30 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	31	

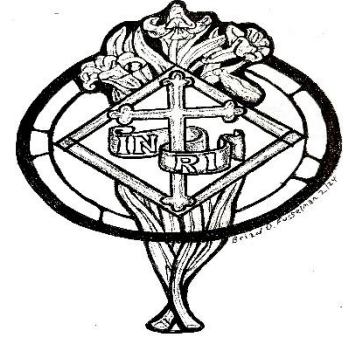


# January

# 2025

## Scheduled Activity Center Activities

“See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you”.  
Isaiah 60:2



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year!	2 Stephen Ministers 9:30am-12:00pm BB 6-9pm	3 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	4 IMPACT at New Tripoli Hotel
5 SS 9:00am Girl Power 4-5pm VB 6-7:30pm	6 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	7 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am BB 6-9pm	8 B. S./Abiding Arrows Co-op 11:00am-1:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	9 BB 5:30pm-8:30pm BB 6-9pm	10 Youth Group 6-9pm	11 Private Celebration
12 SS 9:00am Private Celebration 10:15-4:30 VB 6-7:30pm	13 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	14 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am Girl Power 5-6pm BB 6:00-9:00pm	15 Abiding Arrows Co-op 1:00-4:00pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	16 Stephen Ministers 9:30-12:00pm BB 6:00-9:00pm	17 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	18 IMPACT at New Tripoli Hotel
19 SS 9:00am VB 6-7:30pm	20 Ladies Night Out! 6:30pm	21 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am BB 6:00-9:00pm	22 B. S./Abiding Arrows Co-op 11:00am-1:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	23 BB 6-9pm	24 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	25
26 SS 9:00am Girl Power 4-5pm VB 6-7:30pm	27 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	28 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am BB 6:00-9:00pm	29 Abiding Arrows Co-op 1:00-4:00pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	30 BB 6-9pm	31 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	



