

# THE REPORTER

The Reporter is published monthly by:  
PENBROOK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
56 BANKS STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17105

*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
Of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday Service at 10:30 am  
Sunday School at 9:15 am  
(717) 236-5275 [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org) [www.penbrookucc.org](http://www.penbrookucc.org)

## ONE VOICE

As a pastor friend of mine used to say, “Jesus is coming whether we are ready or not!”

As I write this in the middle of Advent, I have and am trying intentionally to get ready and to keep the spirit of Advent – of anticipation – of eagerness – of watchful waiting – throughout this year’s shortened Advent season. Because of the way the calendar falls this year, everything is shortened ~ Advent IV falls on Christmas Eve. True, Christmas tide is still twelve days; but, it includes only one Sunday. That means a lot of the post-nativity narrative gets abbreviated or omitted all together. Nevertheless, my hope is that you will be able to celebrate the marvelous gift of the Christ; and, that you will not allow yourself to be consumed with undecorating the house and the yard and dismantling the Christmas tree, so that life can get back to “normal”.

I’m wondering if getting back to “normal” means that we stop looking for and celebrating the presence of God in our lives. What would our lives be like after Christmastide ends if we were as intentional about preparing for and looking for the appearances of the Christ in our lives every day as we are during Advent? Can we learn to anticipate the epiphanies – the showings – of Jesus as we go about the daily routines of our ordinary lives? Can we be the light of the Christ for those who cross our daily path?

This poem by Ann Weems speaks to our need to keep watch and wait with patience and love.

## IT IS NOT OVER

It is not over  
this birthing  
There are always newer skies  
into which  
God can throw stars.  
When we begin to think  
that we can predict the Advent of God,  
that we can box the Christ  
in a stable in Bethlehem  
that's just the time  
that God will be born  
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.  
Those who wait for God  
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,  
listening  
always listening  
for angel words.

As you begin this New Year, my prayer is that you will continue to keep covenant with me and with your other companions on the journey – wherever you find them – and to help one another be watchful for the epiphanies of the Christ in our daily lives. If we are companions, encouragers, helpers, and lovers to each other, we will be for those who sit in the shadows of oppression, illness, poverty, abuse and rejection the bearer of Christ's truth and light. And when we do, we also will be blessed to experience the appearances, the showings, the epiphanies of Jesus in our lives as well.

On a final note, please know how grateful I am for your love, your support and your encouraging affirmation of what we are doing in this time of transition. I look forward to the coming months with eagerness and anticipation of the wonderful surprises God has in store for us individually and as a family of faith.

May you experience in abundance the blessings of love and peace in the New Year!

*Rev. Karin*

## NEXT COMMUNION

We will have the pleasure of celebrating Communion at Penbrook Church on the first Sunday of the Month, January 7, the First Sunday after Epiphany. Please plan to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at the Lord's Table on this occasion.

## **MISSION OFFERING SUNDAY (JANUARY 21)**

Our third Sunday in January.

### **THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY**

#### **January 7, 2018**

##### **First Sunday after the Epiphany**

I Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

#### **January 14, 2018**

##### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

#### **January 21, 2018**

##### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

#### **January 28, 2018**

##### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

## **MANNA FOOD PANTRY**

We are looking for a new Director and an Assistant Director as this is more than one person should do. It takes anywhere from 6 to 8 hours per week, with two people. There is Thursday morning, Thursday night, and Friday morning.

The pantry is doing very well thanks to the volunteers who have stepped up to help with the food ordering, food pick-up, stocking the pantries, making sure that we have enough volunteers for the week., and anything else that needs done.

The Penbrook Church of God has opened their pantry for personal items, cleaning, bath soap's and other items that are not food related. It has been up and running since the middle of October. If you wish to donate such items you can drop them off at the Church, and we will see that they get to the Church of God, or you can deliver them directly to the COG.

We are very thankful for everyone who has stepped up and for our congregation and friends who support Manna. God has blessed us with this ministry. Please pray for the volunteer's, and the folks that are keeping the doors open, as well as the Clients that we serve.

From July 2017 through December 2017, we serve an average of 800 combined Adult Clients and Power Pack Kids per month.

Please continue to Pray for Manna and provide whatever help you can by either volunteering your time or giving a monetary donation.

God Bless you all.

Sarah Kempf, Administrator

## **PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Greetings from your Pastoral Search Committee. The committee consists of the following members:

Tita Domingos

Kim Evanoff

Olivia Grier

Richard Heiss-Chaplain

Linda Houseal

David Salapa-Chair

The Pastoral Search Committee and Transition Steering Committee have finalized the local church profile and forwarded it to Consistory for review and approval. After Consistory reviews and approves the local church profile, it will be sent to Penn Central Conference for review and validation.

Once Penn Central Conference reviews and validates the local church profile, it will be posted on the UCC web site. Interested ministers will submit their profiles to Penn Central Conference. Penn Central Conference will review the ministers' profiles and after reviewing the profiles, will forward them to the Pastoral Search Committee.

The Pastoral Search Committee will then review the ministerial profiles and interview candidates.

As we move into this next phase of the pastoral search process, please continue to hold the members of the committees in your prayers.

## **THANK YOU**

To everyone who made a contribution in honor on my Mother, Sarajane Sellers, who passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
John and Sharon Sellers

## **GREEN JUSTICE UPDATE!**

We have 4 youth who are "Climate Change Heroes". They will be crowned at our Celebration Meeting on January 21

### **ANNUAL PROGRAM/CELEBRATION MEETING (JANUARY 21)**

Our upcoming Annual Program/Celebration Meeting is planned for Sunday, January 21, immediately following worship, beginning with our Annual Congregational Dinner. The price of admission to this always-popular fellowship event is to bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share with others.

Please remember to bring your own place setting. Coffee, hot tea, and OJ will be provided.

Every member and friend of Penbrook UCC is invited to participate in this great time of togetherness--sharing in fellowship over food and remembering many of the good things that we have achieved in the name of the Christ across the months in 2017.

Also note that the Ridgway Church of the Brethren congregation has been invited to join us for worship that morning.

## **2018 CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE**

The 2018 congregation directory is available. Copies will be available on the counter in the front office starting Sunday January 7th. Please contact the office to request a directory.

## **PUCC CELEBRATES 125 YEARS IN 2018**

Join PUCC as we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2018. If you would like to help with the preparations, please contact Linda Grier at 717-695-7764 or 717-439-4858

**“Music That Brings Us Closer to God”  
*Celebrating World Religion  
Day***

*Sponsored by the Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Harrisburg,  
the Interreligious Forum of Greater Harrisburg,  
and the Mayor's Interfaith Advisory Council*

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

**3:00 PM**

***At the Penbrook United Church of Christ  
56 Banks Street  
Harrisburg, PA***

***Each religious community will bring a song, music, or  
chant, typical of their worship of God***

***Share in this religious and cultural experience followed by light  
refreshments and fellowship***

***For information contact Behzad Zandieh at 717-232-9163 or  
[bzandieh@hotmail.com](mailto:bzandieh@hotmail.com)***

***Everyone is welcome to attend!***



HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION  
OF THE  
PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UCC

**The Harrisburg Association of the UCC and St Thomas UCC invite you to the Installation Service for Rev. Daniel Schmidt at St. Thomas United Church of Christ.**

Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018  
Time: 2:30 PM  
Location: St. Thomas UCC  
6490 Linglestown Road  
Linglestown, PA 17112



**PUCC WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY, 2018**

<p><b>COMMUNION</b>  <i>Sunday</i>  <b>1/7/2018</b></p>	<p><b>Liturgist:</b> Ann Bailey  <b>Greeter:</b> Lorna Owens  <b>Acolyte:</b> Harvey Bailey  <b>Children's Time:</b> Rev. Karin  <b>Head Usher:</b></p>
<p><i>Sunday</i>  <b>1/14/2018</b></p>	<p><b>Liturgist:</b>  <b>Greeter:</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b>  <b>Children's Time:</b> Rev. Karin  <b>Head Usher:</b> Ann Bailey</p>
<p><i>Sunday</i>  <b>1/21/2018</b></p>	<p><b>Liturgist:</b> Mary Kelly  <b>Greeter:</b> Harvey Bailey  <b>Acolyte:</b> Ann Bailey  <b>Children's Time:</b>  <b>Head Usher:</b></p>
<p><i>Sunday</i>  <b>1/28/2018</b></p>	<p><b>Liturgist:</b>  <b>Greeter:</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b>  <b>Children's Time:</b>  <b>Head Usher:</b></p>



**JANUARY 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BNE = Bhutanesse Nepali Evangelical Church NA = Narcotics Anonymous	(ASSR) = Adult Sunday School Room (DSS) = Downstairs Sunday School Rooms	(FH) = Fellowship Hall (RR) = Ross Room	(OC) = Off Campus (TBD) = To Be Determined			
	<b>1</b> NEW YEARS DAY	<b>2</b> 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: Manna Board (ASSR)	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm: NA (FH)	<b>4</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	<b>6</b> 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
<b>7</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	<b>8</b> 4:00 pm: Delta (FH)	<b>9</b> 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: IRF (TBD)	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm: Consistory (ASSR) 7:00 pm: NA (FH)	<b>11</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	<b>13</b> 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
<b>14</b> 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	<b>16</b> 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm: NA (FH) 7:00 pm: Study Group (OC)	<b>18</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	<b>20</b> 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
<b>21</b> 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship/Ridgeway Visits 12:00 pm: Celebration Meeting 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	<b>23</b> 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm: NA (FH)	<b>25</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	<b>27</b> 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
<b>28</b> 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship (TBD) World Religion Concert 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	<b>30</b> 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm: NA (FH)			

## FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Offering Envelopes	\$6,491.00	\$77,346.00
Budgeted Amount	\$7,692.00	\$92,307.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,201.00)	(\$14,961.00)
<b>Building Fund</b>		
Offering Envelope	\$1,225.00	\$17,008.00
Budgeted Amount	\$1,846.00	\$22,185.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$621.00)	(\$5,177.00)
<b>2nd Century Fund</b>		
Total Giving	\$645.00	\$10,928.21
Budget Amount	\$1,865.00	\$22,372.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,220.00)	(\$11,443.79)
<b>November United Mission:</b>		
PUCG Thanksgiving		\$657.00

### SECOND CENTURY FUND

A donations were made by Bob and Elaine Lane and Lorna Owens in memory of Helen Marsh.

### SECOND CENTURY BRICKS

2 Bricks each were donated by Sharon Bosworth and Kim and Drew Evanoff in memory of Helen Marsh.

### MEMORIAL FUND

Donations were made by Martha Larue, Saranancy Young and Lorna Owens in memory of Helen Marsh

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson  
 Music Director: Brian Johnson  
 Organist: Rita Oberman  
 Bell Choir Director: Ruth Dunnewold  
 Office Staff: George Long and Sharon Bosworth  
 CMC Building Manager: Lisa Puliti  
 Manna Food Pantry Director:  
 Penbrook Learning Center Director: Deanna Hobbs

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

8:30am to 12:30pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
 Telephone and Fax: 717-236-5275  
 Email: [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org)  
 Website: [www.penbrookucc.org](http://www.penbrookucc.org)

### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Articles for the February Reporter are due to the church office **by** than **JANUARY 22**. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles that are date sensitive. Thank you for your cooperation. Articles should be e-mailed to: [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org)

### MEMBER ASSISTANCE FUND

The church maintains a fund for members and friends of the congregation who are in need of temporary financial assistance. People's rent is increasing, there are basic needs for gas and food. If you have a need for this kind of assistance, we encourage you to talk to Sarah Kempf. Please continue to give to this important fund.

### ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee needs more people to join us, (Men or Women). Please call the Church office and leave your name and phone number and I will get in touch with you. Thank you, Linda Grier.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Cancelled services and Manna Food Pantry caused by inclement weather will be announced on the following TV stations: ABC-27 and CBS-21, and on the church website.

## OUR SHUT-INS

- **Walda Ansel**, Church of God Home, Personal Care Unit, Rm 223, 801 N Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013
- **Dorothy Baker**, Moravian Manor Lititz, 300 W. Lemon St., Rm 246D-HCW, Lititz, PA 17543
- **Charlene Delli**, Claremont, 1000 Claremont Rd., Rm 222, Carlisle, PA 17013
- **Marge Lippert**, 1020 N. Union Street, Room 135A, Frey Village, Middletown, PA, 17057
- **Bill Oberholtzer**, 45 Conestoga Drive, Lititz, PA, 17543, Phone #(717) 581-3372
- **Dot Rodriguez**, Manor Care Health Services, Rm #214 A, 1700 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011
- **Mary Sherk**, 4700 Oakhurst Blvd., Apt 202, Kindered Place. Harrisburg, PA 17110
- **Peggy Stellfox**, Room 235, Frey Village, 1020 N. Union St. Middletown, PA 17057
- **Jeannetta (Jeannie) Wagner**, Frey Village, Phoenix Unit, Room 220, 1020 North Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



We would like to extend a very happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating a birthday in January.

Karley Thompson	5-January
Christine Guyer	6-January
Diane (Brodbeck) Edris	8-January
Kyle Bailey	13-January
Kathleen Mattes	13-January
Aaron Lucas	16-January
Sharon Sellers	18-January
Barbara Wilhelm	18-January
Drew Evanoff	20-January
Beverly Mesloh	24-January
Linda Houseal	25-January
Jim Hammond	31-January

## December Gift of Music

Christmas is Coming, PUCG Men's Choir 12-17-17  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s-iF9G9KeQ>

Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium PUCG A-pealing Praise 12-17-17  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZatq0XyTqY>

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:**

**POSTMASTER:** Please deliver between **26th through 30th, of December**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Penbrook United Church of Christ is an accepting, caring, and nurturing community gathering to worship God and welcoming all persons in their journey on the spiritual path.

As faithful stewards, we follow the model of Jesus Christ through loving service to the local community and to the larger world.

We strive in all aspects of our life as a congregation to be a people of courage and a people of peace.