

The PresbyPost



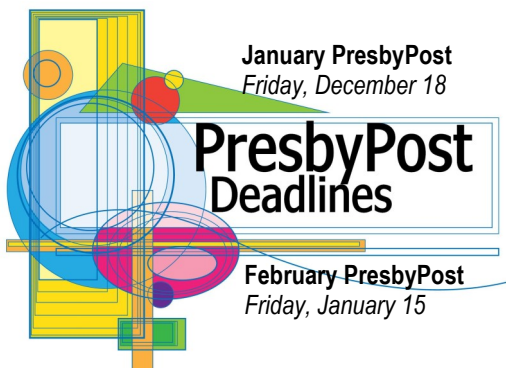
A PUBLICATION OF THE STATE COLLEGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENNSYLVANIA



DECEMBER 2020

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January PresbyPost
Friday, December 18

**PresbyPost
Deadlines**

February PresbyPost
Friday, January 15

We're Still Here!



Advent Devotionals

Awaken! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!
1 Samuel 3:10

Participate as a writer, a reader, or both!
See page 4 for complete details.



Angel Tree

Deadline is December 11!
See page 4 for complete details.



Christmas Candlelight Service

A virtual Candlelight Choir will present Christmas music plus special guests and Christmas Carols for all. Watch for us on the State College Presbyterian YouTube Channel.



Christmas Story Experience

December 23 and 24, 5:00 - 6:45 PM

You must sign up for a time slot so we can manage distancing and keep everyone safe.
See page 4 for complete details.



Christmas Eve Worship

Children and Youth Candlelight Service

Both services will be virtual on our YouTube Channel, but we will have Christmas music and Christmas Carols for you to sing along.



Christmas Day Dinner

Pick up or delivery only.
Order your meals by December 13!
See page 4 for complete details.

ADVENT WORSHIP

December Sermons

Sunday, December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Awaken to Peace (Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13)
Dean Lindsey, preaching

Sunday, December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Awaken to Joy (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)
Dean Lindsey, preaching

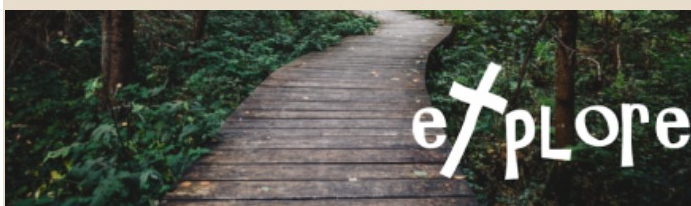
Sunday, December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent
Awaken to Love (Luke 1:26-38)
Dean Lindsey, preaching

Sunday, December 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas
Michael Ozaki, preaching
Recorded service only, no in-person
Worship service.

Festive Friday

As part of Central Pennsylvania's Festival of the Arts virtual winter event, the December 4, Festive Friday will be streamed live from the SCPC Sanctuary. At 7:00 PM, our own Ned Wetherald will present an organ recital and at 9:00 PM cellist Kim Cook will present a program. You can watch on Facebook Live or YouTube Live.

Last Chance To Join Explore 2021



A re-thinking of confirmation class; once every 2 years, the Explore program invites Sr. High youth to...well...explore their faith in Christ through relationship and experience.

Program Dates: Jan. - April 2021

michaelscpc@gmail.com

officescpc@gmail.com

Contact Pastor Mike
or church office
by December 6th
if interested.

Special December Services on our YouTube Channel Christmas Candlelight Service

There will be virtual Choir pieces, special guests, and traditional Christmas hymns and carols for us all to sing. On our YouTube channel. The service will be available in mid-December.

Family Christmas Eve Service - Dec. 24

Children and youth are working on a Virtual Christmas Musical to tell the Christmas Story in a new way. Plus the Christmas story and Christmas carols.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Dec. 24

The Christmas message with Christmas readings, Christmas music, and Candlelight.



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Building Manager - Todd Hockenberry
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Evening Custodian - Colett Spicher

Phone (814)238-2422

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Website - www.scpresby.org



Sympathy of the Congregation to family and friends on the death of:

Virginia Walker, November 4, 2020

Al Snider, November 8, 2020

Congratulations of the Congregation on the birth of:

Hayden Clara McCormick, born November 5, 2020 to **Amber (Smeal) and Jonathan McCormick**. Proud grandparents are **Tonya and Tim Smeal**

FISH Christmas and Alumni Night

All FISH alumni are invited to join us on December 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for our annual "FISH End Of The Year Christmas and Alumni Night". It is a yearly tradition that not only allows you past FISHsters to return and share in the music, small group and circles again, but also shows the current youth the special "cloud of witnesses" or generations that came before them and still surrounds them now.

Whether you are a past youth or leader please join us by RSVPing to michaelscpc@gmail.com to help us keep distancing guidelines. Then, bring a mask and go straight to the sanctuary on December 16 at 6:30 for all the FISH-y goodness.

PSF Update

Presbyterian Student Fellowship is virtual for the rest of the semester! If you would like to join us, even if you're a college student who doesn't attend Penn State, we would love for you to connect with us. We will be on zoom each Thursday at 6:00 PM through December 17th. See our website or email Allison (allisonscpc@gmail.com) for the link.

Christian Education (Faith Formation in Your Home)

During these challenging times, parents and grandparents are pulling double duty as parents and educators in many homes! And it is the same with church education, or what is called Faith Formation, as well. While some of our events can be in person, many cannot. And so as an educator, I am finding it very challenging to send things home that are easy and not that time consuming for parents to do!

Every week for our Pre School and Elementary folks there is a curriculum sent electronically, and some times there will be a video attached, but always coloring sheets.

If anyone would like a Bible Storybook, please let me know, as I have some extra ones!

And with Advent coming up soon, I hope you will watch your actual mailboxes for a special Advent mailing for families with children. I will have extra Advent surprises at the church building for those who are coming in person.

-Deannine Shipman



What's Happening With Out Of The Cold?

Due to Covid-19 safety concerns and our commitment to the Stay and Play Preschool, SCPC will not be able to host the "Out Of The Cold Emergency Shelter" in our building this holiday season as we have the last 8+ years. Instead, we plan offer support and shelter in a different way.

Through our Angel Tree program we will be asking for room sponsorships equaling the cost of a one night hotel stay for an individual (Exact price TBA). We will also be asking individuals to provide nightly meals to be delivered to the guests. We are working closely with OOTC case workers on details for how best to do this. Keep an eye out or contact the church office for details soon.

Jesus said that "What you do for the least of these, my brethren, you do for me" which is why we would prefer to have the OOTC guests in our building, in close community with us. Unfortunately, the pandemic forces us to consider how distance can be an act of love as well. For this reason, we hope you can understand these changes and will support our homeless friends in a different way this year.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions to our church; your gifts are greatly appreciated. As of mid-November, Stewardship for 2020 is as follows:

Annual Giving Budget:	\$840,000
Giving Received to Date:	\$704,980
Outstanding:	\$135,020

If anyone has any questions regarding your contributions for the year, please contact Michelle (238-2422 x207 or finadmscpc@gmail.com).

As we look ahead to 2021, thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards; we've received a large number of pledges in these early weeks and are very appreciative as we begin to work on a balanced budget for the coming year. If you have not yet turned in your card and would like to, you may return it by mail, use our online pledge form (on the SCPC home page or by clicking this link: [2021 Still Here!](#)) or email your pledge to Michelle (finadmscpc@gmail.com). If you are attending the Sunday service, you are also welcome to drop your pledge card off in the office.

Please remember if you use our online giving system and have a recurring contribution set up, it may be necessary for you to update the amount you originally entered. If you are currently using our ACH automatic debit option, Michelle will update the amount of the debit (if necessary) based on your 2021 pledge.

If you are interested in either of these options to help you automate your giving, please visit our website for additional information and links ([2021 Stewardship](#)).

Enjoy the upcoming holiday season and, again, thank you! We really appreciate everyone's continued support of SCPC and all of our programs during this unusual year; all of you help make us a wonderful Church community.

Jason Stimmel, Finance Chair
Michelle Fortin, Financial Administrator



Angel Tree

Thanks to so many of you, the virtual Angel Tree is being decorated with many virtual angels, representing your gifts to social service agencies in our area. Your generosity reflects the sharing spirit of the season, but we're not yet finished. The annual gift-giving program has been adapted to our current times. Out of abundant concern for health and safety and recognizing the limitations imposed by the virus, most of our gifts to the agencies we serve will be gift cards for individuals. If you are interested in participating there's still time to make a financial contribution towards this program serving the needy in our community. Donations may be made until **Dec. 11** by clicking the link below, dropping off or mailing a check to the church office or from the Church website (scpresby.org, scroll to the Angel Tree item and click the link, then select the "Angel Tree" button. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Miller (814-441-5577 or clspangler@live.com).



Christmas Story Experience!

Plans are underway for a "Christmas Story Experience" on the evenings of December 23 and 24. Family groups (those living within the same household) can sign up to reserve a time slot to walk through the experience, hear the Christmas story and see performers acting out the scenes in separate rooms, followed by music and candles in the sanctuary. Scripture readings will accompany each stop. It will be a meaningful and memorable evening as we celebrate the birth of the Messiah in a new way, adapted to the reality of pandemic restrictions.

We're excited to bring you this live experience! Watch for more details to come with a sign-up genius to reserve your time slot. Times will be available for family groups from 5:00 – 6:45 pm (at 5 minute intervals) on the evenings of December 23 and Christmas Eve.

You won't want to miss it – plan to walk through the story with us with this unique "Christmas Story Experience" at SCPC!

Chrysalis Creating Candles, and more

This week was the middle schoolers "Thanksgiving is a good time to remember the goodness of giving thanks program." We met on zoom, talked about the benefits and practices of gratitude. We created a long, long list of things that we're thankful for (on chat and out loud). We discussed an interesting thought shared by Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist teacher who shares: After you've had a toothache, you're really grateful when it goes away. But how many of us woke up this morning grateful for having a non-toothache? And then we crafted together with tissue paper, modge podge and candle holders the youth picked up in bags created for them over the weekend. The evening closed with a reading of Psalm 100, and a prayer of thanksgiving. We all agreed, we have so much to be thankful for, even now. God is good. All the time.



Advent Devotionals

Awaken! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening! 1 Samuel 3:10

Our devotionals are a way for us to connect this Advent season, to hear reflections and experiences from our church family about how God is working in our lives. As we look to how we are called to Awaken to Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love we can explore the ways we have noticed God shining light on those themes throughout our lives. Like Samuel, our recognition of God speaking to us might not always be clear on the first try, but may this season be one where we practice and encourage each other to respond to God's call. To ready ourselves to hear God's nudgings we can reflect together on the noticings of God we have experienced before. Start by asking yourself:

- ? Where have I felt like I was drawn to something larger?
- ? When have I felt like I was at the beginning of a new journey or opportunity?
- ? When have I noticed myself dreaming about life with a sense of curiosity and joy, freedom and openness?
- ? When have I noticed a breakthrough and understanding?
- ? Where have I been spontaneously prompted into prayer or action?
- ? When has a deeper listening provided guidance about what you can trust?

If you would like to submit a brief written reflection please send it along with a scripture/quote and a prayer to Allison (allisonscpc@gmail.com) or Mary Jane Kistler (mjkistler1983@gmail.com). We would love for you to participate this year as a writer, a reader, or both!

Awaken! Our Advent Theme

You have probably noticed that our Advent theme for this year is "Awaken." The sermons through Advent include "Awaken to Hope," "Awaken to Peace," "Awaken to Joy," and "Awaken to Love." Surely part of the inspiration for this theme comes from the hymn "Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us" (#349 in our Glory to God Hymnal) which is based on Matthew 25:1-13 and is often called "The King of Chorales." The tune is called "Wachet Auf" - wake up! For more details, you'll have to listen to Adult Education on December 6 with Ned Wetherald. Throughout the Season of Advent, listen for a different organ arrangement of Wachet Auf as the prelude each Sunday during Advent, beginning with Bach's wonderful setting. You'll also hear an arrangement of Wachet Auf as the anthem for the First Sunday of Advent, November 29. Keep your ears open! Wake up!

Christmas Day Dinner 2020!

We are excited to share the news that plans are being made to offer Christmas Dinner. As we continue to follow the pandemic safety regulations, our Ham Dinner with SCPC stuffing will be available for pickup on Christmas Day with delivery available for those unable to pickup.

There will be no dining in as it has been in the past.

To receive a meal(s), please sign up on our website (scpresby.org) or by calling the church office (238-2422).

The deadline for meal sign up is December 13. We will not be able to accept any orders after that date.

Watch for more details, available soon.

FISH Christmas Cookies 2020: Smaller, Simpler but Just As Delicious

The FISH Cookie Bake: a decades old tradition to help cover Mission Trip costs and fill your Christmas cookie needs. It is still happening BUT Covid-19 means we must simplify in the following ways:

Monster Cookies Only: Our most popular type will be our only type this year. A gluten free option made with oats, M&Ms, brown sugar, peanut butter and more chocolate, this crowd pleaser will be available cooked or as frozen dough for you to bake when you need it. Cost: \$8 a dozen.

No Pre-Orders: A few hundred dozens will be made and sold on a first come, first served basis starting Sunday, December 13.

Drive Through Sales: Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 11:00 AM we will selling in the church parking lot. Feel free to drive through and pick up all you need.

Scheduled Pickup: After Dec.13 we ask that you call the church to arrange a time to pick up any cookies still available.

Ingredient Donations: They are also a HUGE part of what makes our fundraiser successful. Please consider donating any of the ingredients below, dropping them in the boxes provided in the church entryways.

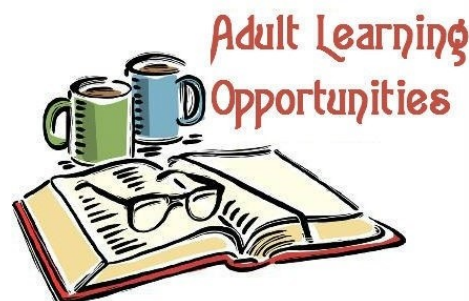
Smooth Peanut Butter
Plain M&Ms chocolate candies.
Brown Sugar
White Sugar
Vanilla
Light corn syrup
Salt
Chocolate Chips
Uncooked Rolled Oats
Baking Soda
Eggs
Butter



Stay and Play Update

We continue with the fun and merriment every day! November was a full month of learning, growing and giving...We had an all school food drive for the State College Food Bank – the children donated a lot of food & toiletries! A grocery cart full. LifeTouch came to do school photos at the request of the parents – they did superb with social distancing during photo shoots and the children had fun being models. We did a school spirit dress up like a scarecrow day – so very cute – the children love engaging in days like this, as you can see in the photos. Classes are “visiting” other countries to learn a

little about their culture, learning about Fantasy, Friends & Feelings, learning about Farms, Superheroes and helping others. The work of play goes on! Stay and Play is moving forward into the new year with great hopes and many lively ideas. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. The whole Stay and Play family is grateful for you all!



Adult Education in December

Title: **Wake, Awake! The King of Chorales**

Date of Class: **December 6, 2020**

Location: State College Presbyterian YouTube Channel

Description: Say “Wake, Awake” to many organists and church musicians and they will immediately begin playing one version of the German Chorale “Wachet Auf” in their head. The hymn was written in 1599 and has been in hymnals ever since. Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger, and Distler loved the tune and used it in their compositions. We’ll listen to some compositions using the hymn and talk about it’s history and meaning.

Title: **Advent - A Theology of Hope**

Date of Class: **December 13, 2020**

Location: Zoom

Description: Why are we so anxious? Why can chasing happiness seem so fleeting? Mike Ozaki will take us through these questions, addressing why we're so anxious, how we can awaken to a deeper theology of joy over happiness, and why Advent may be more necessary than Christmas.

Title: **Advent - Foretaste of Joy**

Date of Class: **December 20, 2020**

Location: Zoom





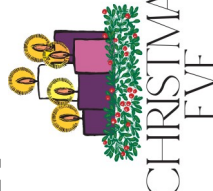
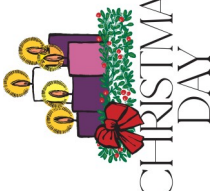

Description: In this final Advent installment, Dean and Peggy Lindsey will talk about the wonder and delight of Christmas traditions in church and home and how these relate to our faith life, finding joy in the birth of a savior.



Stay and Play pictures from Scarecrow Day

ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Advent 1 What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.	30 Go Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person as God does.	1 Learn Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?	2 Pray Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – "Here I am, God" – until time is up.	3 Bless The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?	4 Turn In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. From what do you need to turn in order to be generous of heart?	5 Rest From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.
6 Worship Advent 2 What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?	7 Go Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.	8 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.	9 Pray Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.	10 Bless Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with this person how they are a blessing.	11 Turn Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.	12 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.
13 Worship Advent 3 Pray for each person as they receive Communion. Imagine whom you would like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.	14 Go Today, choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play. Whom or what did you encounter differently?	15 Learn Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.	16 Pray Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on the person's behalf as you move through your day.	17 Bless Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.	18 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.	19 Rest In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?
20 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love.	21 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join in that love.	22 Learn Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.	23 Pray Set aside a time today to pray for others. Include three minutes of intentional silence, asking God to speak to you.	24 Bless If you are gathering with others today, take turns naming a way the person on your right or left has blessed you.	25 Turn Christmas Day Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 Congregational Prayer Z 12:30 Stay & Play Staff 5:30 LOGOS Curbside Pickup 6:30 Chrystalis Z 7:30 Handbell Choir	2 12:30 Wednesday in the Word Z 6:30 FISH	3 6:00 Presbyterian Z Student Fellowship 7:00 Chancel Choir	4 7:00 First Night Festive Friday from SCPC Ned Wetherald, organist	5
6 10:00 Worship 12:30 Deacons Z 	7 7:00 Centering Prayer Z 7:30 Scouts 8:00 POLO Bible Study Z	8 12:00 Congregational Prayer Z 6:30 LOGOS Worship Skills Z 6:30 Chrystalis Z 7:30 Handbell Choir	9 12:30 Wednesday in the Word Z 6:30 FISH	10 6:00 Presbyterian Z Student Fellowship 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Adult Education	11 7:00 First Night Festive	12
13 10:00 Worship 7:00 Session Z  Drive Through FISH Cookie Sales	14 6:00 Stay & Play Advisory Team 7:00 Centering Prayer Z 7:30 Scouts 8:00 POLO Bible Study Z	15 12:00 Congregational Prayer Z 5:30 LOGOS Curbside Pickup 6:30 Chrystalis Z	16 12:30 Wednesday in the Word Z 6:30 FISH	17 6:00 Presbyterian Z Student Fellowship 7:00 Chancel Choir	18 7:00 First Night Festive PresbyPost Deadline	19
20 10:00 Worship 	21 7:00 Centering Prayer Z 7:30 Scouts 8:00 POLO Bible Study Z	22 12:00 Congregational Prayer Z	23 12:30 Wednesday in the Word Z	24  CHRISTMAS EVE	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28 7:00 Centering Prayer Z 7:00 Education Ministry 8:00 POLO Bible Study Z	29 12:00 Congregational Prayer Z	30 12:30 Wednesday in the Word Z	31  New Year's Eve		z = zoom



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Vol. LVIII

Number 8

Ministry Assignments of Session Members - 2020

Clerk of Session - Ginny Rainey
Nominating Committee Chair - Scott Kretchmar

Building

*Carolyn Bryant
John DiNunzio
Don Hartzell
Clark Moose, chair
Pete Moyer*

Christian Education

*Mary D'Ambrosia
Ryan Gilmore, chair
Clark Moose*

Adult Education

*Jane Butler
Jenny Van Hook, chair*

Worship

*Beth Farmer
Joan Hartman
Bill Lukens
Susan Sanders, chair*

Membership

*Karen Christman
John DiNunzio
John Graham, chair
Joan Hartman*

Social Justice and Mission

*Beth Farmer
Mitch Kirsch, chair
Scott Kretchmar*

Personnel

*Karen Christman
Barbara Cox
Pete Moyer
Cam Richardson, chair*

Financial Affairs

*Dennis Calvin
Bob Igo
Jason Stimmel, chair*

Spiritual Life

*Jane Butler
Linda Edvar, chair
Rob Huffard*