

THE LAMP

A Newsletter of The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry

January 2026

HIGHLAND

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.com

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Pastor

Clerk of Session

Patricia Shutt

Church Secretary

Linda Bitting

Church Treasurer

Kathy Smith

Financial Secretary

Jeri Hall

ELDERS ON SESSION

Nancy Campbell

Jessica Bryson

Michael Byers

Cecile Willet

Dennis Tressler

Robert Rolston

Pat Shutt

Kathy Smith

Patrick McIntyre

DEACONS

Elaine Buffington

Lori Little

Michelle Byers

Carol Kauffman

Wendy Brunner

Susan Robinson

Melissa Neidigh

Sharon Delancey

Jeri Hall

Serving Carlisle Presby.

Bill McHenry

Commission on Ministry

Dennis Tressler

Com. On Prep for Ministry

James Turner

Permanent Judicial Com

Greetings to you all! I hope you had a very Blessed Christmas and best wishes for a New Year filled with faith, hope, and love.

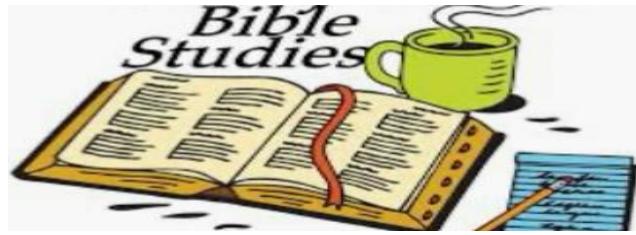
I received the following wonderful message from a very good friend of mine, and I felt the need to share it as we wrap up the Advent Season. As I read this, I felt tearful, but very meaningful emotions for the Love of our Lord Jesus. Did you know the following about the manger that Jesus was laid in?

Of course, mangers are animal feeding troughs, but in ancient Israel they were made of stone-not what you would see in a modern-day nativity scene. Not comfortable, but great for protection. That's why those, who were experts in this matter, the priests, would put their newborn lambs in them for protection. But not just any lamb, the unblemished perfect lambs that were used in the sacrifice for sins.

Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, was FAMOUS for their UNBLEMISHED LAMBS used for the sacrifice. These lambs had to be perfect, so they would wrap them tightly in cloth and lie them in the manger (stone feeding troughs) to keep them safe. This is exactly why the only time mangers are mentioned in Jesus' birth story, it is being told to shepherds. In Luke 2 it says, "This will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." The shepherds would have understood this POWERFUL PARALLEL! THEY KNEW what the cloth and the manger meant! This baby would be THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD!! The Messiah who would sacrifice His life for the sins of the universe. He was not just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, He was GOD: perfect, sinless, and Holy, humbling himself to become the perfect sacrifice to reconcile us back to Himself! THAT my friends, that Perfect Lamb, is WHY we celebrate Christmas!"

Happy New Year,

Pat Shutt-Clerk of Session



THERE IS A NEW LINK FOR BIBLE STUDY!!!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040191828?pwd=PuaJnFxxPpcGBeq6cAXs6rjhWua4b7.1>

Meeting ID: 810 4019 1828 Passcode: 958689

One tap mobile +13017158592,,81040191828# +13052241968,,81040191828#

LENT BIBLE STUDY

Our Lent Bible Study will be a brand new Adam Hamilton Study. Why Did Jesus Have to Die?
The Meaning of the Crucifixion

The book can be found on [Thriftbooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com) (Hardcover \$17.91, paperback \$18.55), Large Print is on Amazon for \$22.99 in paperback. The e-book (Kindle) edition is available on Amazon for \$13.99)

Bill will be ordering books. Let him know what you might like. Please reimburse him directly (you do not need to go through Highland United).

We will be doing Monday evening Zoom, and Saturday Morning in person beginning February 16th. This is a great time for folks who have never joined Bible Study to come and see what this is all about!

Any Questions - Reach out to Bill

S-U-N-D-A-Y N-I-T-E L-I-V-E

January 11th – 5:30 to 7:00 pm 2026 Kick Off – Games

February 22nd – 5:30 – 7:00 pm Corn Hole Tournament & Pizza Party

THANK YOU: Dearest Highland United Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your kindness and fellowship at the Monday Night Meals. The food is delicious. The volunteers are so friendly and welcoming. Herb and Sarah



Delroy & Avon Wagner, Dave & Marjory Miller, Charles Ebling, Elizabeth Harren, Wendy Brunner, Enslee Shuman, the Bolton/Comp Families. Barbara Koppenhaver, Curtis Beatty, Derek & Kerri Lentz, Wyatt Shellenberger, Jody Satzler and Jacob Smith.

Deacons

Our congregation is KIND and THOUGHTFUL as they supported the Seniors of Perry County through Angel Tree Giving. A special thank you to Melissa Neidigh, Mickey Mohler and Sue Robinson, as they transported all gifts to Joined Hands.

The Deacon of the month for January is Elaine Buffington. If anyone would like to provide coffee hour refreshments on Sunday January 4th, please call her. Keeping our congregation active and supportive are the goals we plan on achieving. With Love, the Deacons

Mission

The Kitchen Ministry and the Mission Committee has decided to continue with the Monday Meals until further notice. In case of inclement weather, there will be a sign at the end of the driveway or you can also call the church after 3:00pm to check. If no one answers, the meal is cancelled for the day.

There will be a special meeting for those interested in helping with **Octoberfest on Tuesday, January 13 at 4:45 p.m.** Help us decide where we go from here, new ideas welcomed.

Mark your calendars **Tuesday, January 13, for our Regular Mission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

Everyone is welcomed to come and join us.

Monthly Mission for January

Perry Human Services began operating in 1974 to provide counseling, information, and education, as well as drug-free alternative activities to area young people. Perry Human Services empowers individuals and families through personalized, evidence-based drug and alcohol counseling, promoting recovery and well-being in a supportive community.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Pam Adams
5	Lindsay Brunner Anderson
10	Robert Rolston
12	Glenda Dillman
15	Gwen Babski
19	Jeff Mathia
24	Ryan Tressler
25	Mary Horting
	Dennis Comp
26	Pat Shutt
27	James Myers
29	Kimberlee Drum
30	Wilma Klingensmith

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Robert and Nancy Campbell
25	Richard and Wendy Brunner

BEGINNING IN February –

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES WILL NOT BE LISTED IN THE LAMP or BULLETIN but in a separate packet of their own. Please make Linda aware if you would like one. Thank you.



Distance Ministry

The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry offers the opportunities for worship and study via zoom each week. If there's a week you are ill, you are not physically able to leave your home...this ministry is for you! See all the links below.

ZOOM LINKS: (HIGHLAND)

BIBLE STUDY LINK: Joint Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85829693534?pwd=WHRrRDRETVVvb1YvdDdFa2xDaW91QT09>

Meeting ID: 858 2969 3534 Passcode: 268410 One tap mobile: 16468769923,
+1 669 444 9171 US +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (8:30am) (HIGHLAND)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/619915621?pwd=NFN3ZzRPSWRGM2ZpVmhqWFRWWkdKUT09>

Meeting ID: 619 915 621 Passcode: 129308

DISTANCE MINISTRY

WORSHIP LINK 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - (HIGHLAND)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/912154723?pwd=cHI2eVJBVWM0azV4U0MzZ1NtdHEzUT09>

IF YOU ARE USING A CELL OR LAND LINE: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 912 154 723 Password: 664159

WORSHIP LINK (WESTMINSTER)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86533397349?pwd=MUE3M1BHVXQyRVhRUWRGZINRNGtiQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3339 7349 Passcode: 920593 Dial by location: 1 646 558 8656

HIGHLAND'S SECRETARY'S HOURS:

Tuesday 8:00-12:00 Thursday 8:00-2:00 Friday 8:00-12:00

WESTMINSTER'S SECRETARY'S HOURS:

Wednesday 8:00-5:00 Friday 7:30-12:30

WESTMINSTER PAGE

WESTMINSTER

3rd and Lemon Streets
Mifflintown, PA 17059

E-mail:

westminsterupc@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Kit Parks

Church Secretary

Judy Armstrong

Church Treasurer

Mary Ann Willis

Sunday School

Superintendent

John Shirk

Sunday School Secretary

Shelly Horning

Sunday School Treasurer

Diane Marshall

ELDERS ON SESSION

Aaron Geedey

Kit Parks

Jody Satzler

Jan Manbeck

Rob Digon

Chris Fisher

Marie McNaught

Pat Brown

TRUSTEES

Brett Satzler

Rachel Dowling

Jane Shirk

Mike Stoner

Petey Crater

Shelly Horning

Gabe Book

Jan. Lector: Shelly Horning

Jan. Ushers and Greeters Judd and Michelle Parks and Family

Jan. Counter: Mike Stoner

Jan. Closer: Mike Stoner

Jan. Children's Ministry: 4 Parks Family 11 Digon Family 18 Shelly Horning and Jody Satzler 25 Campagna Family

Jan. Birthdays: 13 Jeff Dowling 20 Judd Parks 25 Melanie Stoner 27 Terry Dolin 28 Gabriel Digon 30 Tyson Digon 31 Barbara Koppenhaver

Jan. Anniversaries: 21 Toby and Melanie Stoner

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 8 4:45 p.m. Trustees in church office

January 11 A brief congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship to Install and Ordain new 2026 Board Members

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE that beginning
January 18, 2026, Sunday Worship
Services will begin at 10:30 a.m.**



JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: (These are the foods that are more difficult for us to secure): Turkeys (around 12 lbs.) or Turkey Breasts, Whole Chickens, Hams (3-5 lbs.), Boxed Stuffing, Turkey Gravy, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Instant Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, and Brownie or Cookie Mix, or a \$20 Donation will purchase one complete meal!

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA WORLD HUNGER ASSOCIATION

The Central PA World Hunger Association will be having their 51st Annual Meat Canning Project at the Chief Logan Fire Company in Lewistown, PA (formally East Derry Fire Company) on February 9-13, 2026. We would like to thank each person, group, church, and business who have helped to support our project here in Mifflin County for the last 50 years.

We will be canning but not sure of the amount of meat. It depends on the meat prices. The price of chicken and pork are both around \$1.75/pound. Last years project ran about \$90,000.00. We expect the price to be the same this year. Most of the meat is shipped through Mennonite Central Committee in places such as Ethiopia, Ukraine, Cuba, and Chad. 10% of the meat stays locally in Central PA.

If you or your group are willing to can meat, and/or help label cans this year, please contact Jesse Diem 717-348-9577, Sylvanus Peachey (coordinator), 717-935-2511 or Jonathan Coldren (President) 717-250-6840 as soon as possible. If you, your church, or business would be willing to supply food or snacks to feed the workers, please contact Laura Litwiler 717-543-3419, Sylvia Diem 717-543-8784 (text please), Elizabeth Peachey 717-935-7413.

You can help by supporting the project financially. This year there is still a great need for this meat, both locally and worldwide. Thank you again for your contributions and prayers. Donations can be sent to: Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association, P.O. Box 76, Belleville, PA 17004.

“Together We Can”

Rick Esh, Canning Secretary

717-667-2643

rickesh@embarqmail.com



so much for the gorgeous poinsettia and especially for your prayers during my recent health issue.

Wendy Levin



“**MY SINCERE THANKS** to Westminster Sunday School for the Christmas gift, and to the Congregational Life Committee for the beautiful Poinsettia. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for the New Year.”

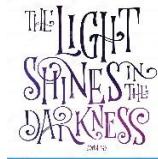
Judy Armstrong



THANK YOU SO MUCH to our dear friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church for your generous and continuing support of the Juniata County Food Pantry. Your kindness will greatly benefit the lives of our Food Pantry families. Words are inadequate to express our gratitude. Many families are currently struggling with financial issues. Your graciousness will brighten the lives of many in need of a blessing. You are truly Pantry Angels! As of today, we have given gifts and blankets to 119 children, and we have 2 more days to continue. We are blessed to partner with you in our mission! May the Lord bless you for your sense of community and for sharing in our mission to "feed His sheep." (John 21:17). Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and blessed 2026!

Most sincerely,
Patricia Brown, Treasurer and the
Juniata County Food Pantry Board of Directors

FELLOWSHIP



SHINE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS – Westminster's Mission for January 2026 is the Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg. Their mission statement is: Reaching into our community, one man, one woman, one child at a time, offering the love of Christ in tangible ways. Bethesda's Vision is to aspire to be God's House of Mercy, through which He brings about life recovery and restoration for hurting, hopeless, and homeless men, women, and children in our shelters, in our community, and throughout the region. We desire to holistically serve those in need, equip them to engage purposefully and meaningfully with society, and lead them to experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

Bethesda's services include Men's and Women's Missions, a Community Center, a Mobile Mission, Medical & Dental Clinics, and a Food Bank.

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). Please give as you are led.

January 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
<p>4 Adult S.S. 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour following Worship Westminster 11:00</p>	<p>5 Grief Support Group 9:30-11 Free Meal 4:30-6:00pm</p>	<p>6 Session (H) 5:00 Deacon (H) 6:00</p>	7	<p>8 Trustees (W) 4:45</p>	9	10
<p>11 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 11:00 Congregational meeting (W) following worship SUNDAY NITE LIVE 5:30 – 7:00</p>	<p>12 Grief Support Group 9:30-11 Free Meal 4:30-6:00pm</p>	<p>13 Octoberfest planning 4:45pm Mission 6:00pm</p>	14	15	16	17
<p>18 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 10:30</p>	<p>19 Grief Support Group 9:30-11 Free Meal 4:30-6:00pm</p>	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 10:30</p>	<p>26 Grief Support Group 9:30 -11 Free Meal 4:30-6:00pm</p>	27	<p>28 Grief Support Group 5:30 - 7</p>	29	30	31

**Highland United Presbyterian
Church**

11 Church Road
Newport, PA 17074