



HOLMES HERALD

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PO BOX 117, HOLMES, PA 19043

Please join us on
Sunday mornings for...



January 2024

Adult Forum : 9:15 AM
Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM

Pulpit Supply: Dr. J. William Carpenter
Admin. Asst.: Cheryl Steckel
Email: holmespreschurch@gmail.com
Treasurer: Angelo LoCastro
Organist; Choir Director: Mark Kalbach
Youth Director: Rebecca Kalbach
Custodian: Helen Pilgrene
Office telephone: 610-532-0346
Fax No.: 610-532-2420
Website: www.holmespreschurch.org

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2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2024 offering envelopes are now available. Please pick up your envelopes from your narthex mailslot. If you currently do not have church envelopes and would like some, please contact Ed Taylor or the church office.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023

Contribution statements for 2023 will be available in narthex mailboxes on January 14th and sent out in the mail on Jan 15th. Please review your statement carefully and contact Carol LoCastro or the office prior to January 31 if adjustments need to be made. After January 31st, new numbers will be entered into the system for the 2024 year.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2023



The Presbytery asks us to hold an annual meeting with the congregation to report on the stewardship and scope of our ministry for the prior year. During this meeting, The Nominating Committee and Auditor for the year are elected. **The meeting is scheduled for February 4th immediately following worship.** We value your presence at this important meeting, YOU ARE HOLMES CHURCH!!!



Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You:

-To everyone who came out to this year's Hanging of the Greens. A wonderful Christmas spirit was in the air and everyone's enthusiasm was reflected in the decorating of our church. Everyone's time and talents were certainly appreciated!

-To all those who came out and supported Painting Without a Twist & Cookie Walk. What a fun night of fellowship! All the paintings turned out to be fantastic works of art. Also, what a beautiful assortment of cookies!

-To everyone who came out to make community baskets/baskets for our shut ins. It is true what they say, "Many hands make light work." Well, many hands made beautiful baskets to thank our community organizations for their service, and to also show our shut-ins they are remembered during the holiday season. Thank you to all who donated the many items needed to make the baskets.

-To the Chancel Choir, for all their hard work and practice, to lift their voices in praise during the Advent/Christmas Season.

-To Anthony, Dave Jolly, Savannah, Maddie, Noah, Bob & Dyan White, Ed Taylor, Barbara Zimmerman, Debbie Oliver, Monica Ferry, and Thorin Ferry- for your participation in the Christmas Pageant. Your willingness to illustrate the the birth of our Lord and Savior through the Christmas Story to our church/community is ever so appreciated!

-To Dyan White and Evelyn Hill, for lifting your beautiful voices, to our Lord and Savior, in song on Christmas Eve.

-To Colin McCullough for picking up the poinsettia's that beautified the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

-To Debbie Oliver for the time organizing and arranging the Christmas poinsettia's for Christmas Eve.

-To Suzie Waldie, Crew 143/Holmes Youth Group for making 50+ Christmas blessings bags which were handed out to all those who attended worship on Christmas Eve morning by Maddie Suplee.

-To Maddie Suplee/the Kraus-O'Donnell Families, Patty Jo Urian, Amanda Taylor, Suzie Waldie, Dave Jolly, Eileen Stevens, Barbara Zimmerman, John Van Geyten , Mark Kalbach, and former Pastor Carpenter, who all helped set out and or light the 180 luminaries around the church campus on Christmas Eve. The church exterior looked absolutely stunning again this year (and a big thanks to those many hands that prepared making the luminaries as well!)

For a SMALL church, we come together to do a lot of GREAT THINGS for God and our community!

With extreme gratitude and thankfulness,

Becky Kalbach

Worship Chair



Every year we are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling at Christmas, to share what we have because God has blessed us. This year, the Deacons adopted the women at Mother's Home. As always, the generosity of the congregation overflowed and resulted in a van

full of items for both mother and baby. The Deacons wish to thank everyone who participated in their Christmas Outreach Program. Thank you for showing God's love during their time of need!



Many thanks to the Monday morning men for their hard work in 2023. These hard working servants of God faithfully meet to repair and

replace items which are broken often times at their own expense. Their service includes, but is not limited to, setting up and breaking down tables, helping to clean up after church events, cleaning out closets, painting, and dealing with various mechanical and plumbing failures.

These men work behind the scenes to make sure we have heat in the winter, air conditioning in the summer, and constantly replace bulbs so that the church is well lit and safe. They also schedule and meet with contractors to fix the issues they can't.

We are extremely grateful for the knowledge, skill and dedication of these men and thank them for their tireless efforts!



Many thanks to Debbie Oliver for overseeing the ordering, pickup and placement of poinsettias over Christmas. It is a big undertaking with the many flower orders we receive to honor/memorialize our loved ones.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 2023



The Deacons wish to thank everyone for their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. \$385 was collected this year. Your generosity will certainly add

joy to the lives of others.

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

2 Sue Mulhern



Larry Gloner has moved. Below you will find his new address. Please make note of this in your directory:

Larry Gloner
2104 SE Roundtable Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952



A Chilly Chili Night



Stay tuned for more information coming about a Chilly Chili night. All chili makers and chili lovers get ready for this Chili cook-off!

A New Year wish

May the New Year bring us:
Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
Enough trials to keep us strong;
Enough hope to keep us lively;
Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
Enough failure to keep us humble;
Enough success to keep us eager;
Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough wealth to meet our needs;
Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
Enough faith to overcome despair;
And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.



COMMUNION 2024

It is a tradition in our congregation to begin the new year at the Lord's Table. On January 7th, we will observe the start of the new year with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

January New Membership Classes

If any friend is interested in joining the Holmes Church family, please see any one of the Elders: Bob/Dyan White, Mark/Becky Kalbach, Angelo LoCastro, Bruce Moffatt, Ed Taylor, Suzi Waldie, or Elaine Van Geyten.



The following people have been elected and will be installed in worship on January 7th:

Elder: Elaine VanGeyten,
Rebecca Kalbach, Angelo LoCastro, Dyan White, and Suzi Waldie
Deacon: Charlotte Merker

What the New Year offers

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.



Our Source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

Brand new

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.



I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown

YOUTH NEWS

December was an extremely busy month for the Holmes Youth Group. We helped decorate the church at Hanging of the Greens, helped make baskets for the community/shut ins, participated in Painting Without a Twist, assembled over 50 Christmas Blessing Bags. On Christmas Eve, we helped set up luminaries, and Evelyn Hill sang an angelic version of "O Holy Night."

Heading into 2024, we continue to focus on programs and events designed to entice more young people to join our group. It has been a period of transition for us, and we are ever grateful for the tremendous support this congregation has given this ministry.

Wishing all of you the very best for the New Year,

Mark and Becky Kalbach



JANUARY

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Happy New Year!</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p> <p>9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p> <p>3:45 PM Crew 143</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">4</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Support Group</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">5</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. Meeting</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">6</p>																																																																																										
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