



# HOLMES HERALD

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*Please join us on  
Sunday mornings for...*

**DECEMBER 2025**

**Adult Forum :**

**9:15 AM**

**Children's Sunday School:**

**10:30 AM**

**Traditional worship service:**

**10:30 AM**



## Christmas Eve

## *Christmas Eve Worship*

It has been a long standing tradition at Holmes Church to celebrate the eve of our Savior's birth. This year, we will be holding a Family

Candlelight/Communion service at 7:00pm.

Please join us for this beautiful and meaningful intergenerational service.

As you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may you feel renewed hope, tremendous peace, profound joy and the awesome love of God.

## **Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

## *Last & First Worship*

Our last Lord's Day worship of this year is Sunday, December 28th. As is our normal custom, worship will start at 10am instead of 10:30am and the service will be informal.



It is a tradition in our congregation to begin the new year with communion. On January 4, 2026 please join us at the Lord's table at 10:30 am.

# This Christmas Let Your Light Shine

What kind of impact would you make this holiday season?

Joyce Meyer



The Bible tells us that when Jesus arrived on this earth, He became a light to everyone around Him. He was not only a spiritual light, offering us a way to have a personal relationship with God, but His light shined brightly everywhere He went.

Luke 1:78-79 says, Because of and through the heart of tender mercy and loving-kindness of our God, a Light from on high will dawn upon us and visit [us] to shine upon and give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct and guide our feet in a straight line into the way of peace (AMP).

Jesus truly loved people—He listened to them, had compassion for them, healed them and brought joy and life to each situation. Simply put, people felt better after they spent time with Him!

In the same way, the Bible says that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (see Matthew 5:13-16). Because Jesus lives in us, we can shine the light of His love to everyone around us—on the job, in the grocery store, and even among friends and family members who don't have a relationship with God.

I think we can sometimes complicate what it means to love other people and represent Jesus with our lives. Many times, it's simple things that can mean so much.

Just think for a moment...

What kind of impact would you make this holiday season if you decided to be happy and full of joy everywhere you went?

What if you took an extra minute to talk to that person at work who seems lonely or is going through a difficult time?

How would it make someone feel if you texted them a quick message to say you're thinking about them and praying for them?

What would it mean to a struggling family if you surprised them with a gift to help make their Christmas more special?

While Christmas is such a joyous time of year for many, it is also an incredibly stressful time for others. And we have the privilege to let the light of Jesus shine through us when they need it most.

As you go about your daily life—especially during this special season of celebration—I encourage you to set aside a portion of your time, energy, talents and resources to share that light and serve others. It can be as simple as wearing a smile or brightening someone else's day with a laugh.

My husband, Dave, is probably the best example I know of someone who lets their light shine on a daily basis. He is extremely positive, and he looks for opportunities to share his joy with others.

For instance, if we're at a restaurant and our waiter seems to be having a bad day, Dave will talk to him, encourage him and do everything he can to lighten his mood or make him smile. There have been times when I was a little embarrassed, and I'd say, "Dave, just let him be." But, inevitably, he always manages to cheer people up!

We are all busy; we all have responsibilities and deal with those big and little things that pop up in our daily lives. But even in the midst of our own busy schedules, we can do something extraordinary: We can share the love of Christ with others and make their lives a little bit better.

Maybe this season you are the person who is going through a difficult time. You may be having relationship struggles, financial issues, or you're feeling stressed out because you are too busy. If so, the greatest thing you can do is take some time—even if it's just a few moments out of the day—to let Jesus, the Light of the World, strengthen you.

You can simply pray, "God, I need You today, and I know that I can't do anything without You. Right now, by faith, I give You all of my worries, cares and problems. Please strengthen me spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally and in every other way. I know You are greater than anything I am facing, and You will help me as I take it one day at a time with You."

Next, I encourage you to brighten someone else's day. When we're feeling down or struggling with a difficulty, the enemy wants us to turn inward and shut down. However, one of the greatest things we can do in these situations is reach out and help someone else. As you do, it will not only bless their life, but it will fill your own life with joy.

After all, this is what Christmas is really all about. Just as Jesus came to love and serve all of us by giving the greatest gift—His very life—we can give of ourselves because His life and light dwells inside of us. It's our time to shine!



# FROM THE DEACONS



Dear Friends,

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is a special mission collected during Advent that supports the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the church. The offering is split equally between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Assistance Program of the Board of

Pensions provides many different individualized programs to ministers and church workers, both retired and current, when they are in need. The Board offers things such as income supplements, one time need offers for things such as hearing aids to continue ministry and for emergency needs.

Presbyterian affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges receive the rest of the offering and use this to award scholarships to the students and help the schools with basic operating costs. This allows the students to pursue their education and the schools to stay current in these technologically evolving times. Our Joy Offering will be received on December 21st. Joy Offering envelopes are in the church pews and also in your envelope boxes.

Holmes Church has a wonderful record of generous giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. Let's continue to give generously and in "Joy!"

Thank you for caring for others!

Peggy Walter  
Deacon, Special Missions



## Christmas Offering

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- 4 Lee McFalls
- 5 Elizabeth Carpenter
- 15 Carol LoCastro
- 15 Kay Caruso
- 20 Joe O'Donnell
- 29 Lynn Krautheim



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

- 26 Mr. & Mrs. John VanGeyten



### Holiday Baskets

The adult forum will once again be sponsoring holiday baskets. The event, "Mission Sunday" is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 14th. In place of our traditional service, we will gather in Morrison Hall, to prepare the baskets and celebrate Jesus' birthday. We hope you will join in as we bless members of our church family and the community.

### Christmas Music Program

On Sunday, December 21st, Holmes Church will hold a Christmas Music Program dedicated to the music of the Christmas season starting at 10:30 am. Please join us as soloists, the Chancel Choir, and the Bell Choir lead us in the glorious music of the season. A Christmas Tea will follow directly in Morrison Hall. Please join us and invite a friend.



### Information Update

Please update your directories with the following information:

New phone number for Bob Vincent  
(717) 201-2018

New address Jane Cottrell  
912 11th ave

Prospect Park PA 19076

John & Elaine VanGeyten new address  
348 Holmes Road





## Gratitude

Everyday we have reasons to be grateful but especially in the month of December. We are profoundly grateful to God for the gift of his son, our salvation and the days he gives us here with family and friends. As we look back on this year, we are grateful for our church family and their hard work and generosity here at Holmes Church. Here are just a few items that warranted an extra "Thank You" this December

To my dear church family,

I can't thank you all enough for your support especially over this past year as my husband, Joe, struggled with major health issues. It was very difficult for us as a family to watch Joe's health decline. He wanted so much to live and fought everyday. But God in His wisdom and mercy called Joe home, to be with Him. I've been a member of Holmes Church for many years. And I know why I've been here this long. It's because at Holmes Church I've always felt loved and supported through the ups and downs in my life. So, I'd like to thank you all, my church family, and my pastor, William Carpenter, for continuing to love me and my family through these most difficult days. God bless you all! And may you know God's peace and joy as we prepare to celebrate His coming!

Debbie Lucas & Family



## Festival of Joy



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Festival of Joy fundraiser a huge success! We raised over \$1683.00 that will go into the general fund. Thank you for your time, talents, donations, and support. We may be a small church, but we are mighty when we come together to support our dear church!

### Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to everyone who came out to help with the Hanging of the Greens! We had so many new faces and I truly appreciate your time in talents in decorating Holmes Church this year. Our church looks exceptionally beautiful this year. Thank you once again!



### Food Drive

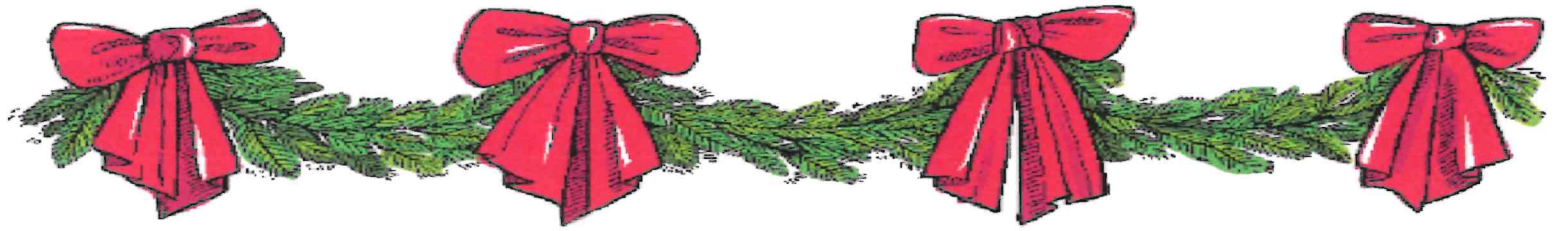


The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed to the recent food drive to benefit our Blessing Box and our community food boxes. Your generous contributions will help food insecure people into our cold winter months.

## Luminaries



If anyone (weather-pending) is will to help the youth group put out over 150 luminaries around the church campus on Christmas Eve day Dec. 24th, your help would be greatly appreciated. We usually put them out around 11 am. If you can help, please see Mark or Becky Kalbach.



# YOUTH NEWS

I would like to thank with the youth group with helping with our Festival of Joy fundraiser. Your help was greatly appreciated!

December has the Holmes Youth Group very busy. First, the youth worked very hard in helping with Hanging of the Greens. They made wreaths, and helped beautify the sanctuary. Furthermore, they will be helping with the Mission Sunday project on Dec 14th, helping out with the Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24th, and helping with putting out over 150 luminaries for Christmas Eve night. We truly appreciate their willingness to help the church in any endeavor!

For this month, Bible discussion topics will be about the miraculous and joyous birth of Jesus Christ.

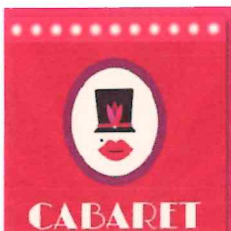
We are truly thankful for everyone in this church who supports this program and prays for our youth with the challenges they face. It is ever so appreciated!

Mark and I pray that everyone has a very blessed and merry Christmas as well as a Happy New Year!

In Christ,  
Mark and Becky

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## Holiday Dessert Cabaret



On December 13th at 7pm, we will be holding a Holiday Dessert Cabaret. This will feature a family oriented showcase with a special audience karaoke contest (prizes too), a sing-a-long and Yummy treats! Donations of canned goods will also be collected. Cost: Adults-\$12.00, children under 12-\$8.00. Please use the parking lot entrance of the church to access Morrison Hall.





# December

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<b>1</b> 8:00 AM OTHG 12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing 6:30 PM Daisy Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> 4:00 PM Crew 143	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Men's Support Group	<b>5</b> 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b>																																																																																											
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