



HOLMES HERALD

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

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

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Session message page 2

Thank You page 3

Bdays/Misc page 4

Thank You/Shine without wax page 5

Youth News page 6

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

Adult Forum : 9:15 AM

Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM

Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM



January 2026

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2026 offering envelopes are 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 2025

Contribution statements for 2025 will be available in narthex mailboxes on January 11th and sent out in the mail on Jan 12th. Please review your statement carefully and contact Carol LoCastro prior to January 31 if adjustments need to be made. After January 31st, new numbers will be entered into the system for the 2026 year.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2025



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. **Please watch for bulletin updates regarding this meeting that immediately follows worship.** We value your presence at this important meeting. YOU ARE HOLMES CHURCH!!!



Holmes Church: 2025 Reflections/2026 Aspirations

It is hard to believe that we are already in the New Year of 2026! Holmes Church accomplished so much in the calendar year of 2025. Let's celebrate our accomplishments as we reflect back on last year. Here are some highlights:

*Concrete work all around the church campus

*Tremendous community turnout for events like:

Easter Egg Hunt, Compassion Flower Sale, Festival of Joy, Fall Flower Sale, Trunk or Treat, Annual Soup Luncheon.

*Community Outreach through our Vegetable Garden Harvests, Blessings Box, Free Clothes Giveaway, Sewing Circle Baby Hats, Bibs, and Blankets, The "Hat, Glove & Sock" Giveaway to James R. Ludlow School in Philadelphia, Deacon's Thanksgiving Food Drive, Deacon's Christmas Gift Drive, School Supply Collection/School Bag Project.

*Special worship events/programs: Mission Service Sunday (Christmas Baskets), Christmas Music Worship, Christmas Eve Service, Thanksgiving Eve Service, Good Friday Service, Maunday Thursday Service, Easter Service, Memorial Day Service, Friendsgiving, Hanging of the Greens.

*Christian Education programs: VBS, Kidstuff, Crew 123, Youth Group, Men's Bible Study, Sunday School and the Women's Adventure Bible Study.

*Over the Hill Gang (OTHG)- completed dozens of projects, installed the new ceiling in Morrison Hall, and re-painted the Christian Ed Hallway. We are very thankful and grateful for all the work the OTHG does to help save Holmes Church in repair work expenses.

As a church, we are small - but we are mighty! Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We at Holmes Church continually strive to serve God and our community. This February we will celebrate 119 years as a church in the Holmes Community. Praise the Lord! As a Session, we pray that God will bless our efforts as a church as we try to reach the community and increase our attendance in the 2026 calendar year. We are noticing a greater appreciation for our place in the community by increased attendance and participation at church community events. We are hearing many positive comments as we receive many compliments on our church's generosity.

Thank you to all of our friends and members of Holmes Church for your support, participation, prayers, and vision as we serve God and the surrounding community for many years to come!

With Gratitude,

The Holmes Session

Ed and Lisa Taylor, Bob and Dyan White, Suzi Waldie, Elaine Van Geyten, Lynn Krauthiem, Angelo LoCastro, Mark and Becky Kalbach



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 children in the Grands Stepping Up organization. As always, the generosity of the congregation overflowed and resulted in a van full of items for the children. 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 2025. These hard working servants of God faithfully meet to repair and replace items which are broken often. 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!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 2025



The Deacons wish to thank everyone for their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. Your generosity will certainly add joy to the lives of others.



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.



Sincere thanks to all the people who faithfully help us feed the community through our blessing box and food box distributions. Your donations help others get through the difficult times knowing that we care. That is a priceless gift.

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

2 Sue Mulhern



The following people have been elected and will be installed in worship on January 11th:

Elder: Dante Caruso, Bob White, Gene Zimmerman
Deacons: Amanda Taylor, Eileen Stevens, Barbara Zimmerman

Contact information Update

Please update your directories with the following information

Lynn Krautheim-new address and phone
Strath Haven Condo
801 Yale Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081
Phone: 484-758-8823

Peggy Walter-phone and email
phone: 610-306-3780
email: pegwa2001@gmail.com



Just a reminder that our Women's Adventure Bible Study will continue in 2026. Since June the women have been studying the women of the Bible. Please consider supporting/expanding your knowledge of the Bible by joining this group.

Hat, Glove, Sock Project for James R. Ludlow School in Philadelphia, Pa



FOR GIVING, SERVING
AND LOVING!

Due to the generosity of the friends and members of Holmes Church, close to 120 students in grades K-2 at James R. Ludlow Elementary School were able to get a hat,

and pairs of gloves, to help them stay warm this Winter (with extras to spare). The students were so excited to pick at their hats, and gloves the day before Christmas break. They couldn't wait to show their parents.

Thank you ever so much Holmes Church for your caring and kindness again. You made many little friends at our school happy and warm!

With Love,
Becky Kalbach

A New's Year Prayer by Rhonda Reed

I thank You, Lord, for this new year-
For every joy, for every task, for every tear
For every lesson learned, for every promise true,
For comfort, for correction that leads my heart
to You.

As I rejoice in everything that comes my earthly way,

I find Your heavenly purpose as I study, praise, and pray.

The years are but a journey, your example is my guide.

With the new year before me, Lord, help me stay close by Your side.

Thank You!



Thank you to all the friends and members of Holmes Church who helped decorate our church at the Hanging of the Greens, filled and help place 150 + luminaries out on Christmas Eve, donated and assembled fruit baskets for our shut-ins and community partners, participated in and/or attended our Christmas Worship and Christmas Eve Programs. Thank you to Debbie Oliver who so beautifully arranged the poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. They were just gorgeous this year! Thank you to Dyan White for creating our lovely Christmas Eve program involving the Chrismon ornaments. To Mark Kalbach for all his hard work during the Advent Season, particularly the Music Worship Service. To Suzi Waldie and friends for the fun Christmas Cabaret, and also the beautiful liturgical dance during the Christmas Worship service. I am also thankful to the Chancel Choir for their dedication to help make our worship services special during the Advent/Christmas Season. To the Deacons for hosting a lovely Christmas Tea after the Music Worship program.

As you can see, the Advent/ Christmas Season takes a lot of time, planning, and preparation. A huge heart-felt thank you to the many people who made this Christmas Season at Holmes Church extra-special.

Becky Kalbach
Worship Chair



Shine Without Wax

How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help others see Christ in us.

The word sincere comes from an old Latin phrase meaning "without wax." In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly solid and not hiding any imperfections.

When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; he restores us. As his light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely his.

YOUTH NEWS



January brings our group back together after Christmas Break. We are continuing to discuss the fundamentals of our Christian faith during our Bible Talk. The youth have discussed several upsetting trends that are becoming prevalent in our public schools, most discovered and shared through extensive use of their cell phones and social media. It truly is a different world than the one most of us knew growing up.

We look ahead to our Soup Luncheon in February, with more details coming in the near future. Thank you for upholding our youth in prayer and for supporting this program.

In Christ,

Mark and Becky





January

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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