

DECEMBER 2023

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU HERE.

From the Pastor's Pen

SCRIPTURES AND SERMONS FOR DECEMBER

December 3 Isaiah 64:1-9 Sermon: "When will you fix this"

December 10: Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8 Sermon: "A better way"

December 17: John 1:1-18 Sermon: "What is God like?"

December 24: One service at Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm music, service begins 7:30 pm

December 31: Guest preacher or leadership from the Deacons

Why do we Celebrate Christmas?

Because Jesus Christ was born.

Why is that something to celebrate?

The Latin word is *incarnation*. It means "in the flesh." The Almighty God, who often seems far off, has come to us *in the flesh* in Jesus Christ. Like John said in his gospel (John 1:18) "No one has ever seen God, it is the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made God known."

We know about God because we have seen God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is not far away. God is near. In this life - in the here and now - God gives us strength; God gives us love. We encounter this in prayer; and discover it "in the flesh" in the lives of people who care for us. May the joy of belonging unconditionally and forever to God fill you this Christmas season.

Pastor Chuck Maxfield



Come and Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Lessons and Carols

7:00 Recital: Harp & Organ

7:30pm Service: The Nativity Story through
scripture and song

Come early to visit quietly with friends and family
for a recital of festive carols by Harpist Rebecca
Simpson and Organist Lynn Bullock.

This beautiful service concludes with the traditional
illumination of the sanctuary with candlelight and
the congregation singing "Silent Night."

Those interested in participating as a scripture
reader should contact **Alison Simpson at 215-348-
5288**

Please take note: Due to Christmas Eve falling on
Sunday, there will be **no 10am worship service**,
only the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS & BOUNTY

All of us here in Carversville Christian church have
many reasons to be thankful: food on our tables,
roofs over our heads, our health, our home, our
families, our friends, and our church. Our church is
where we come to worship and thank God for his
many blessings. It's a special, loving place for all of
us to gather together as friends to praise our Lord.

After counting your blessings, please search your
hearts to remember our beautiful country church
with a financial Christmas gift this year. Be it large,
be it small; it will all count and be very much
appreciated.

Blessings to You and Yours,
The Trustees





PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who would benefit from receiving cards. We encourage you all to reach out to these people as it will mean a lot.

Card List for December

Catherine Halper-P.O. Box 564, Lahaska, PA 18931

Judy and Frank Le Vien-6264 Point Pleasant Pike, Doylestown, PA 18902

Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain Road West, Furlong, PA 18925

Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St., #508A, Doylestown, PA 18901

Jack King-503 Windrush Bay Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

DJ Kling- P.O. Box 195, Carversville, PA 18913

Jim Cleaveland-26 N. Lafayette Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067

Lon and Pat Pritchard- 1131 West Kings Highway, Coatsville, PA 19320

Marta Strait- The Colonnade at Carrollwood, Marta Strait, 13550 S. Village Dr., Tampa, FL 33618

Art Burger- 3622 Buttonwood Dr., Doylestown, PA 18902

Kathy Thompson- 403 S. Main St., Apt. B102, Doylestown, PA 18901

Jeff Mays- 5 Broad St., Stockton, NJ 08559

Frank Taylor- 6651 Ferry Rd., New Hope, PA 18938



We are pleased to announce the birth of Meadow Lynn Kolinchak. Meadow was born on November 10, 2023, at 8:01 a.m. She weighed 7'5" and is 19" long.

Meadow is the daughter of Sarah Loretta Livezey and Michael Kolinchak and is the baby sister of Michael, Jr. She is the granddaughter of J. Walter Livezey, III. Congratulations to the family.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lynn Bullock, Organist
Email: lynnbullock8@gmail.com
Cell phone: 215-260-1569

Chris Ochadlick, Office Admin.
Wednesday and Thursday ~ 8:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.
Office phone: 215-297-5166
Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com

Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com
Website: CarversvilleUCC.org
Facebook.com/carversvilleucc

3736 Aquetong Road, PO Box 26
Carversville, PA 18913
Office phone: 215-297-5166





Winter Wonderland Market Recap

Submitted by Cheryl Costella

We had another successful winter event after a few years off. This year we had over 20 vendors, a room full of vintage items, and multiple wonderful gift baskets available to win. This year we also gave the Boy Scouts a table to sell wreaths and, Americans for Native Americans to talk about the great work they do and to sell ornaments. There was also delicious food available from Dan Gallo from Thyme & Plate Catering.

The gift baskets were curated by our committee and some of our church members, and included items donated by Wegman's, Plumsteadville Inn, Maximuck's, Trenton Thunder Baseball, and Wawa. Those gift baskets brought in \$610.

Instead of doing an entrance fee this year, we decided on a freewill offering basket which brought in \$129.01 and, what was left in the jingle jar was \$250.

Sue's Stocking Stuffer table of many wonderful, handcrafted items (with chocolate) made \$889.50. Pam Price sewed colorful casserole cozies, towels, and other goods and made \$223. Finally, many people donated vintage goods which Debbie Furst wrangled together and made \$357.

Altogether, everything made on the day of the event totaled \$2,458.51 which will be used to continue our mission work with the ANA and the Bucks County Food Pantry.

The money collected from vendors for their space totaled \$820 and the quilts sold from Pam Price and the quilters for \$300, plus some vintage items sold prior to the event of \$85 all went to the general fund for a total of \$1,205.

The grand total of the event was \$3,413.01.

Thank you to everyone who donated something, to the entire committee for their work to get the baskets together, to Debbie and Charlie Furst for putting out signage and taking it back down, to Blaine and John Price for helping to set up the tables, the Boy Scouts for helping to break everything down and clean up, John Price, Tim McCarthy, and everyone that helped with parking, and last but not least to Cathy Price for keeping us organized, on track, and chairing another wonderful event.

Treasurer's Trove

Submitted by Cheryl Costella

Just wanted to remind everyone that we have changed our online donation platform. You can get to it the same way by going to www.carversvilleucc.org and clicking on GIVING. The new platform, Vanco, was recommended by the PSEC and has an entire division devoted to faith-based organizations. The PSEC negotiated great rates for our conference and donors have the option of covering the fees when they make a donation. Vanco allows for more customization of our donor page, less expense to the church, and more options for donors.

If you set up an account, you can also set up recurring donations on a credit card or through your bank account. Vanco is completely secure and meets all current industry security standards.





JOURNALISTIC OPPORTUNITY

For 15 years we have been the editors of the monthly church newsletter. We've gone from black and white editions to living color, and from hard paper copies to environmentally friendly digital on-line copies. It has been a labor of love, AND we got all the church news first!

We are now retiring! Our last edition as editors will be the January 2024 issue. Hopefully, somebody else with journalistic enthusiasm will step up and continue the newsletter. We will be happy to talk with any interested parties.

Cathy and Sue



EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!

Clear your calendars for **Monday, December 11!** Our book group and Women's Fellowship will be celebrating once again at the Plumsteadville Inn. We'll meet at the Inn at noon.

As always, if you want to be included in the gleeful gift game, buy a small gift for about \$15, and wrap it beautifully. We'll figure out our right from our left and leave the event with a gift and good memories.

If you want to join us, contact Jackie Adinaro Putman at 215-262-6115 or email jackiwoman@comcast.net by **Tuesday, December 5.**

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Cheryl Costella

As of October 31, 2023:	
Total Giving	\$74,560
Other Revenue	<u>7,842</u>
Total Revenue	82,402
<i>Expenses</i>	
Church Home	36,851
Communication	2,821
Faith Formation & Edu.	173
Outreach	3,851
Personnel & Admin	68,036
Worship	<u>2,473</u>
Total Expenses	114,204
Deficit before investments	<u>(\$31,802)</u>
Investment Income	<u>2,118</u>
Deficit	<u>(\$29,685)</u>

As of October 31, we are at a \$32K deficit vs. \$33K at the same time last year. Giving is down 7% vs. the same time last year; however, revenue is down only 1% because of use of building income mostly from funerals. Expenses are 11% under budget and 2% under last year.



CHURCH CANCELLATION INFO:

When we are experiencing inclement weather or possible loss of power, a message will be left on the church phone indicating a cancellation of the church service.

Please take a minute to call the church (**215-297-5166**) before venturing out, only to find there will be no service. (*Individual phone calls will not be made.*)



A HUGE SUCCESS!!

I am so pleased to report that our event was a huge success! The weather was perfect, the vendors were awesome, the food was delicious, and the people were happy to be there.

After ten months of meetings, brainstorming and pulling things together, we were well rewarded. The vendors were pleased with their sales and the Scouts and ANA seemed pleased as well. Not once did I hear a negative remark!

This is where I get to acknowledge the fabulous and talented committee who put this together: Sue Wulf, Jan Heebner, Jackie Putman, Elizabeth Richardson, Cheryl Costella, Chris Ochadlick, and Debbie Furst. A special thanks to John Price for all his help and support.

We had additional help from Blaine Price when we were setting up and tearing down. Speaking of tearing down, a special thank you to Troop 64. Because of their help (assisting the vendors by helping them load their cars and tearing down tables and chairs) we were all able to leave a clean and tidy social hall by 5:30 p.m.!!

Also, thanks to Tim McCarthy for helping in the parking lot. I understand it was full all day!

It was a wonderful day. Thanks to all who supported it.

Cathy Price, Chair



Gratitude from the Tummy

A group of people arrived at church early on Sunday, November 19, to create a delicious Harvest Breakfast for us. Many thanks to all who had a hand in the breakfast preparations.