



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor’s Column..... 1
 Christian Education2
 Worship3
 G-A Food Pantry.....4
 Session Minutes.....5
 Property and Maintenance..... 5
 Prayers & Concerns.....11
 Calendar12
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....12



57 West Baltimore Street
 Greencastle, PA 17225
 717-597-8333
 gpc.office17225@gmail.com
 visitGPCpa.org

PASTOR’S COLUMN

REV. DR. ROBERT COOK *Interim Pastor*

Welcome to the year of our Lord, 2024. It will take a week or so to start writing “2024” instead of the previous year. But we do this every year. So, what might the Bible say about entering the new year? We do well to go to Psalm 100:4

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

As we start the new year, this Bible verse about new beginnings reminds us of the importance of giving thanks to God and learning to love God in the person of Jesus. This begs the question of how do we love one whom we’ve never seen? After all, we live in a physical reality and that is our orientation.

We love characters in a book. And we love characters in a movie we like. But how are we to love God?

We certainly benefit from rituals in worship. Hymns, prayers, confessions and scripture provide a framework. And especially the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion feature large in our private and public worship.

The first step towards learning to love God is to respond to God's steadfast love for us. Scripture uses the word "**steadfast**" in many places, especially in the Old Testament. It is the nature of God to love and not change the divine mind about us. So, through scripture, we do not see God as an imperious judge. Instead, we see God as a lover whose love will never let us go.

Living in a world of physical reality requires a spiritual focus to learn to love God. Along with poets and song writers, I have found that developing my sense of awe and wonder draws me closer to God. Nature offers so much inspiration if only we will stop to look. And the more you look in wonder, the greater sense of awe you'll experience in the natural creation.

The Psalms are helpful if we read them with care. They connect the physical and spiritual together with the sense of awe and wonder at God's handiwork. In fact, all scripture is helpful in pointing us to God when we don't just plow through it as if we are doing it like a chore. It is best when we take time and read contemplatively. You may stay focused on a word or phrase or just one verse. Trust that God's Spirit is there with you in the reading.

Developing the spiritual awareness of God's presence present with you also deepens the sense of love for God. You grow to love God the same way you grow to love anyone in the day to day, give and take of a relationship. For real love is the deep orientation of your life with the life of another.

Theologically speaking, scripture and Christian experience teach us that God is present to us in the sacraments. In baptism, it is God doing the action. And in Holy Communion, the real presence of the risen Christ is present with us in the bread and the cup. As we open ourselves to this truth, we sense experientially its reality. For we are not observing a death upon a cross, but a resurrection from the grave and the promise that as Jesus lives, so too, will we live in his presence now and when our lives here are done, we will be in his presence forever.

And when we recall his sacrifice for us, we see beyond the cruelty and the injustice to a love that is stronger than death. God has given to us the Holy Spirit, who conveys God's presence to us and that is the "deposit" as Scripture states in II Corinthians 5:5. It takes time and quiet time at that, to grow to experience God's presence with us. But it is not difficult at all. The Psalmist reminds us, "**Be still and know that I am God.**" (Ps 46:10)

So, it is a new year for us. And the way to begin is start quietly by reflecting on your life over the past year and how you have been guided through it. Meditating on God's steadfast love and faithful to you and yours and trusting that God will be there with you in this new year will inspire you, fill you with hope and head you in the direction of deepening your love for God.

-Pastor Robert Cook

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

KERI PAPA *Director of Christian Education*
MINDY BARNHART Moderator

Our next CE Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there. Come share your ideas on how to improve our programs.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help in our Sunday School classroom. We appreciate you! It's not too late to volunteer. See the sheet outside the sanctuary to sign up. Below are the links to the clearances if you haven't filled yours out yet. It is important that we have two people signed up to help each week or we risk having to cancel Sunday School that week.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/PA-Child-Abuse-History-Clearance.aspx>

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/Criminal-Background-Check.aspx>

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOOD COLLECTIONS:

Our Sunday School class will be collecting donations each month to give to our food pantry. This month we are collecting Valentine-themed snacks and cereal. These might include Valentine Pretzels, veggie chips, holiday themed crackers, Valentine-themed cereals, fruit snacks, snack cakes etc. due by Sunday, February 11th. Our goal will be to provide children who come to the food pantry with something special. All items must be new, pre-packaged items (no homemade treats). We'll have a plastic tub in the classroom.

BIBLE STUDY: This month we'll begin a study on the book of James beginning on the 14th. You can join in Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. in the Edwards Room. See Jim or Keri Papa with questions.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES: At the end of the month we'll have our annual Valentine Card Making Party. Stay tuned for details! These cards are sent to our own church shut-ins as well as seniors in a local nursing home.

COMMUNITY CAMP: Planning has begun. We need lots of volunteers to make this week happen. Camp will take place from June 17-21. If you'd like to be a part of this week, you can attend upcoming Christian Ed meetings (we work on camp during the first part of our meetings in case you don't plan to stay for the whole meeting). See Keri with questions.

(See pictures of **Caroling, Cocoa, & Cookies** on page 4 and **Youth Christmas Program** on page 6)



Pictured left to right: Pastor Bob Cook, Sue Bell, Bryan Larew, Anne Larew, Joann Lewis, Grace Eby, Gabe Gates, Sheila Gates, Racheal Marconi, Chris Bowman

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNE LAREW || RACHEAL MARCONI
Co-Moderators

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Advent has been a blessed time in our liturgical year. Many thanks to all who have helped support our worship here at GPC. This includes our committee, moderators Racheal Marconi and Anne Larew, Pastor Robert Cook, our liturgists, acolytes, Dr Fred Davison, choir members, bell ringers, musicians, greeters, youth, Advent candle lighters, decoration team (*see picture below*), Sue Miller, technology support, communion servers and preparers. As you can see, it takes a lot of effort and individuals to pull it all off! Our next committee meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

As we enjoy the 12 Days of Christmas and Epiphany, we look forward to planning our worship for 2024. May God bless you during this new year, and give you peace.

Let us worship God!



December was a busy month! We were thankful for the opportunities to celebrate the Advent season. We enjoyed an evening of caroling and fellowship. Thanks to all who came out with us!



GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM FOOD PANTRY

717-597-8333 ext. 2 • gafodpantry@gmail.com

Call or email to schedule a time to drop off the food donations.

Thursday, January 4 • 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, January 10 & 17 • 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

CURRENT FOOD NEEDS

Cereal, Pasta sauce in cans or plastic, Applesauce, Canned fruit
 Rice and pasta mixes, Potato mixes, Dry pasta, Canned pasta (*Chef Boyardee*)
 Canned meats, Vegetables *except green beans and corn*
 Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE FOOD PANTRY!

CLERK'S REPORT

BRIAN KECK *Secretary Pro Tem*

The Greencastle Presbyterian Church REGULAR SESSION MEETING was held on November 9, 2023 in the Social Room at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was opened by Moderator Reverend Dr. Robert Cook with the lighting of the candle. Ed Wine offered a devotion and a prayer.

ELDERS PRESENT: Mindy Barnhart, Brian Keck, Anne Larew, David Lindecamp, Jim Papa, Scott Peterson, Ed Wine

ABSENT: Racheal Marconi, Jenn Robertson

SECRETARY PRO TEM: Brian Keck

Clerk's Report ACTION. Approved minutes of October 12, 2023 Session Meeting and minutes of the October 24, 2023 Special Called Session Meeting. Worship attendance on November 5, 2023 was 88 with Communion served to 84. Home Communion was served to Mark Metz on October 11, 2023 by Paster Bob Cook; to Bob Brust on October 23, 2023 by Mary Ann Ackerman and Diane Mills; to Mary Steel on October 27 by Diane Mills and Pastor Bob Cook. Church Roll through September 30, 2023 is 141. **ACTION:** Approved Clerk's Report.

Financial Report October, 2023

Beginning Balance	\$15,259.64
Revenue	\$70,340.99
Expenditures.....	\$49,862.95
Ending Balance.....	\$35,737.68

Christian Education: ACTION. Approved Laurel Mission Presentation by Mission Team/Committee Members on November 12, 2023 during the Worship Service.

Property and Maintenance: ACTION. Approved disposal of window air conditioning units as the Committee sees fit, including donation.

ACTION: Approved privileged motion to recognize David Lindecamp, Elder for Property and Maintenance, for all the work he has devoted to

completing the many church improvement projects this past year.

Worship: ACTION. Approved Cumberland Valley School of Music Recital on November 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. followed by light refreshments in the vestibule.

ACTION: Approved Pulpit supply for January 14, 2024.

ACTION: Approved serving Communion on December 24, 2023, 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Pastor's Report: Continued to officiate funerals and weddings, to make pastoral care visits and to provide counseling.

Nominating Committee: ACTION. Approved Elder Anne Larew to serve as Chair of Nominating Committee for the Class of 2027 slate of Deacons and Elders.

The meeting closed in prayer by Moderator Reverend Dr. Robert Cook and The Lord's Prayer in unison.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE

DAVID LINDECAMP *Moderator*

I hope that your holiday season was truly memorable and wishing you all a very blessed New Year!

A brief update on our activities:

PROJECTS STARTED:

- I am sure that most of you are aware and feeling the burden of rising costs, the same is true for our church. As we have recently been informed by our insurance provider of increases not only in premiums, but our deductibles and likely will see increases in our utility expenses, please be mindful when using the church to make sure the exit doors are locked, required interior doors remain closed and the lights are turned off when you leave the building. Thanks!!

- We have received a quote from TelePlus to complete the annual inspection of the alarm system. This inspection identifies any issues with the system and its components and its successful completion generates a compliance report to meet the NFPA72 guidelines. This year's quote had some options to achieve some cost savings during the inspection process. Both the committee and Session members approved an option, so this work will be completed sometime in the early part of 2024.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

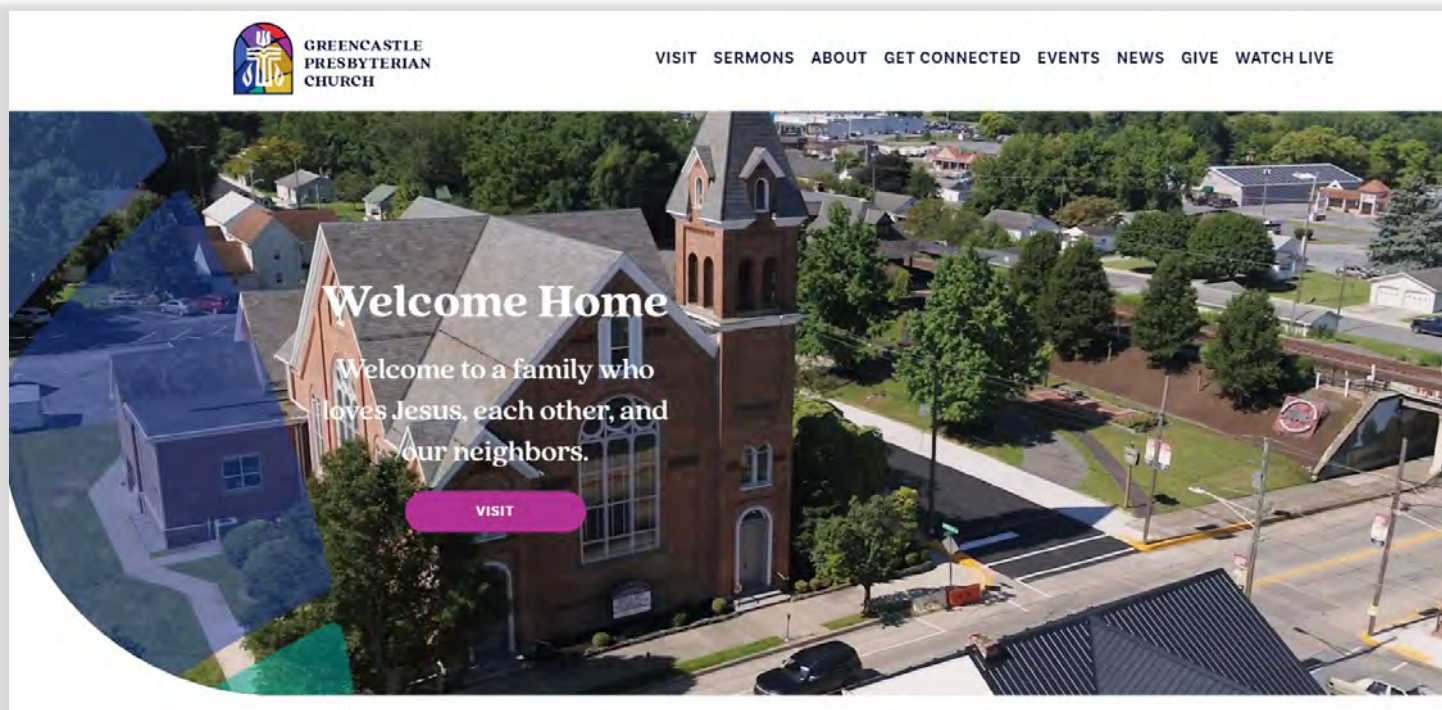
- With the completion of the HVAC installation work in the Educational wing, the window AC units are no longer needed. The Session has approved of their disposal. If anyone is interested in one of these units, please contact the Office Manager. Here is a brief summary of the AC units:
 - West Pointe - Model MWEUK-08CRN1-BCLO - 8000 BTU/hr (Warner)
 - Home Pointe – Model MWEUK-06CRN1-BCL1 – 6000 BTU/hr (Edwards)
 - Frigidaire – Model LRA069AT7 – 6000 BTU/hr (Rogers – Nursery)
 - GE – Model AGR05LHG1 – 5150 BTU/hr – (Woosley)
 - Maytag – Model M3X05F2A-C – (Hodge)
- As you know and was mentioned in the October newsletter, the parking lots were damaged in early September. After several attempts, we were finally able to connect with the insurance company and completed the requested Incident Report of what transpired. It has been submitted to them and we have had contact with the insurance adjuster. We have received written notice from the insurance adjuster that the liability investigation is still pending, but we have not received any additional information since last month.

Until next month, Peace and Love in Christ!

We are so pleased with our youth for their willingness to continue to serve their church.



Have you seen the new GPC website? It is full of news and new features that you will want to explore. The Outreach Committee invites you to learn more about the site, by attending our **Website Workshop on Sunday, January 7**... starting 10-minutes after worship concludes... and lasting no more than thirty minutes. Learn all about our new website features and learn how you can use the secure giving feature to conveniently donate to the GPC.



Why is Per Capita important?

Per capita provides the Office of the General Assembly with the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

Per Capita Contributions for 2024

The Presbytery of Carlisle, Administration Committee announced a \$2 per capita increase, bringing the total per member to \$33.

General Assembly.....	\$ 9.80
Synod of the Trinity.....	\$ 2.40
Presbytery.....	\$20.80
TOTAL.....	\$33.00

GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Greencastle Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Celebrating a New Year!
Time of Fellowship, Fun,
Singing, and Refreshments!

- ◆ No reservations necessary
- ◆ Lunch optional
- ◆ Free-will offering

***All are welcome to attend
and bring a friend!***





Advent began with Annual Dinner/ Concert





*and into
Christmas Joy!*



OUR PRAYERS CONCERNS

- Marna Yingling**, recovering from COVID-19 (submitted by Anne Larew)
- Becky Hess**, health concerns (friend of Ed & Debbie Wine)
- June Marshall**, health concerns
- Nancy McIntyre**, health concerns
- Nursing Home Residents:** Herb Layton, Bernice Walck
- Patti Sechrist**, health concerns (submitted by Marcie Tinninis)
- Alan Shope**, health concerns
- Tim Walck**, health concerns
- Mary Lou Riddle**, health concerns (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)
- Steven Bishop**, health concerns
- Mindy Grosh**, health concerns (Dick & Donna Grosh's daughter-in-law)
- Michael Paylor**, complications from leg amputation due to hit and run accident in 2012 (cousin of Weslie Johnson)
- Linda Pittman**, health concerns (submitted by Jan McClain)
- Rachael, Christopher & Anna Lee Massieu**, (submitted by Evelyn Lindecamp)
- Mary Buhl**, health concerns
- Kim Hay**, health concerns
- Cullen Gaston**, young child with Leukemia
- Bob & Sandy Seidel**, (submitted by Marcie Tinninis)
- The Gagne family**, mom was diagnosed with acute transverse myelitis (submitted by Jan McClain)
- Bill & Kathy Kendall**, health concerns (submitted by Weslie Johnson)
- Dan Amato**, young man fighting leukemia (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)
- Aaron Frick** (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)
- Ray Spitz** (brother-in-law of Ed & Debbie Wine)
- Sue Angle**, health concerns
- Rev. Bill Beck** (submitted by Patti Divelbiss)
- Caroline Robinson**, going through chemo for leukemia (submitted by Patti Divelbiss)
- Dian Bishop**, health concerns
- Dan Patton**, health concerns
- Vasilija Milanovic**, health concerns
- Tracey Hammond and family**, struggling with loss of love one (Scott Peterson & Candace Rutherford's cousin)
- Bethany Yeager**, missionary work in South America (submitted by Scott Peterson & Candace Rutherford)
- Penny Mohler**, battling ovarian cancer (submitted by Nancylee Moore)
- Dot Wilson**, health concerns
- Cathy Thomas**, health concerns (Beth Taylor's mother / submitted by Sheila Gates)
- Dominic Frampton**, health concerns
- Bobbi Biesecker**, health concerns
- Sue Lum**, recovering from broken kneecap (Fred Davison's sister)
- Jan Shafer**, health concerns (submitted by Patti Divelbiss)
- Rowan Stotler**, one-year-old experiencing seizures (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)
- Jerry Tarr**, health concerns (Linda Tarr's husband)
- Cora Crider**, health concerns
- Jane Everetts**, health concerns
- Laura** (submitted by Bonnie Speaks)
- Shawn Schaeffer** (submitted by Diane Mills)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert Cook
Interim Pastor

Dr. J. Frederick Davison
Director of Music Ministry

Keri Papa
Director of Christian Education

Susan Miller
Office Manager

Bonnie Speaks
Finance Manager

Ryan & Debbie Hock
Custodians

Bryan Larew
Groundskeeper

Barbara & Paul Grane
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024
Mindy Barnhart,
Brian Keck, Jim Papa

Class of 2025
Anne Larew,
David Lindecamp, Ed Wine

Class of 2026
Racheal Marconi, Scott Peterson,
Jenn Robertson

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024
Mary Ann Ackerman,
Kelsey Marshall, Diane Mills

Class of 2025
Evelyn Lindecamp,
Brian Rice, Deb Shank

Class of 2026
Ben Herrmann, Louise Kemper,
Candace Rutherford

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2024

Mon January 1 **New Year's Day**
Church Office Closed

Tue January 2
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING 6:30pm

Wed January 3
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur January 4
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 6:30pm

Sat January 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**

Sun January 7 **Baptism of the Lord**

Worship with Communion 10:00am
Website Workshop / Coffee Fellowship / Food Drive
Youth Group 6:00pm

Tue January 9
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm

Wed January 10
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm
MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00pm

Thur January 11
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MEETING 1:00pm
SESSION MEETING 6:30pm
Examination of New Members

Sun January 14

Sunday School 8:45am
Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Youth Group 6:00pm

Mon January 15 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Wed January 17
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur January 18
BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING 7:00pm

Sun January 21 **Per Capita Sunday**

Sunday School 8:45am
Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Dementia Caregivers 2:00pm
Youth Group 6:00pm

Tue January 23
Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship
9:30am at Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wed January 24
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Sun January 28

Sunday School 8:45am
Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship
Youth Group 6:00pm

Wed January 31
Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am
Bell Choir 6:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Beverly Leap
- 8 Chelsea Johnston
- 9 Berry Kline
- 12 Joanne Lewis
- 14 Max Houck
- 14 **David Rutherford & Carole Malin**
- 15 Sean Walck
- 15 Shayla (Walck) Gift
- 18 Mindy Barnhart
- 18 Chris Johnston
- 19 Darlene Kline
- 21 Sally Snyder
- 21 Linda Tarr
- 22 Emily Jones
- 23 Paige Widder
- 27 Patti Divelbiss
- 29 **David & Evelyn Lindecamp**
- 30 Chuck McClain

