



2019

ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER – NEWSLETTER – 2019

PASTOR'S PAGE

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion.

Philippians 1: 3-6

This will be my last pastor's page as your interim pastor. It has been a great joy to reconnect with old friends and make new friends in a place that I love. It has been my great blessing to serve at EPC again.

Time moves on. It is time for us to part. This church is on the brink of a wonderful future. While I believe that our time together has been valuable, it is now time to move on.

As Christmas approaches, I think about the blessings in my life. It is hard for me to think of anything that I would ask Santa to bring for myself; except maybe a new joke book! So I have a list of things that I want the Elderton Church to receive. My list for you would include the following:

1. I pray that a new pastor will come on board to lead you into the future. While I hope that this will occur sooner than later, it is much more important that it be the right person, God's person. For whoever the pastor is who will partner with you in the work ahead, it is GOD who will take you there.
2. I pray that you and the members of your families will be healthy in the coming years.
3. I pray that you will continue to grow in spirit as well as in numbers and programs.
4. I pray for a renewal of a passion for ministry both local and global.
5. I pray that you will always remember how much I love you.

It is because I love this church that I will not come back in any public or leadership way once you have a new pastor. It is important for that person to develop those close relationships with you. I will not interfere in any way, not because I love you any less, but because I want what is best for this, my beloved congregation.

So with sadness, mixed with excitement to see what the Lord will do in and through you in the years ahead, that I say good-bye. That phrase, good-bye, is a shortened version of God be with you. That is my true prayer. So I wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas and all the best in the years ahead.

Pastor Rick

GREETERS, NURSERY & ACOLYTE'S **(Mark Your Calendars)**

This is the only list you will receive – so PLEASE look this over & PUT A REMINDER NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR OR REFRIGERATOR!!

If the date assigned you conflicts with your schedule, **PLEASE TRADE with someone else on the list and let the church office know of this change.**

GREETERS should be at the door at 10:10 AM and the bell should be rung 10 times at 10:15 and again at 10:30 AM. Please hand out the morning bulletin. Before worship – open doors into the sanctuary and close when the service begins. They should also get the collection plates before the service begins and find two people to help take up collection. The collection plates are on the first pew in the back section of the church (in the black cloth bag).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
<u>December 1</u>	<u>Larry & Linda Prugh</u>	<u>Alexandra Maughan</u>
<u>December 8</u>	<u>Linda Richardson & Peg Rowan</u>	<u>Mia Scrips</u>
<u>December 15</u>	<u>Brenda & Brynn Salley & Alexis Stenman</u>	<u>Jordan Freeman</u>
<u>December 22</u>	<u>Terri Maughan & Laurie Pritt</u>	<u>MaKayla Scrips</u>
<u>December 24</u>	<u>Shirley Schall & Nancy Schrecengost</u>	<u>Travis Johns</u>
<u>December 29</u>	<u>Eric & Susan Schrecengost</u>	<u>Liam Scrips</u>
<u>January 5</u>	<u>Chet Schall and Tom Spencer</u>	<u>Jonah Scrips</u>

NURSERY LIST



December 1	Sheila Brumbaugh
December 8	Hannah Schrecengost
December 15	Christmas Cantata, no nursery
December 22	Children's Program, no nursery
December 24	Christmas Eve, no nursery
December 29	Carmen Riggle
January 5	Laurie Pritt

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

Flower Person- Nancy Schrecengost
 December 1 –
 December 8 –
 December 15 – Barb Spangler
 December 22 – Barb Spangler
 December 29- Rick & Vanessa Milleman





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2019
7:30 PM

A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on **Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30 PM**. Luminaries will light the way, and extinguish on their own as you leave. A beautiful service is planned please come and be a part of it.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, November 10, 2019,
we participated in the baptism
of John Richard Bell.

In a spirit of thanksgiving and promise, let us along with his parents, Heather and Dennis and their families, commit ourselves to John's nurture and guidance in the Christian faith.

DATES ARE AVAILABLE

For anyone interested in donating chancel flowers.

The cost is \$35.00.

Please contact Sue Quinn
at 724-354-3083
as soon as possible.

REMINDER

Email addresses
Cell phone numbers

If you have any changes in your address or telephone number for the church directory, please give the information to the church office by December 11.

If you would like your email address or cell phone number in the church directory please give the information to the church office by December 11.

If you know of anyone who does not receive the newsletter and would like to, please have them forward their mailing address or email address information to the church office.



PLEASE JOIN US

DECEMBER 29, 2019

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

**A DINNER WILL BE HELD TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE
REV. DR. RICHARD D. SWEENEY.**

**A MEAL OF HAM, BAKED POTATO, SWEET POTATO,
COLESLAW, APPLESAUCE, ROLLS, BEVERAGE
AND DESSERT WILL BE SERVED.**

**PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION BY DECEMBER 22, 2019
SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO PREPARE FOR.**

Please place in offering plate or call office. 724-354-3117

NAME_____

No. Attending_____

CHAIRPERSON'S & TREASURER'S

Written reports from the various committees will be due for the Annual Report on January 4, 2020.

The financial reports, which includes all bank statements, cancelled checks, etc., will be due in the church office on January 11th or as soon as you get your statements and can balance the account.



A special thank you to those who made donations towards the Clean Up Bucket Mission for the Presbyterian Disaster Relief and Church World Services.

We were able to fill 14, five gallon buckets with supplies needed for distribution during hurricanes, fires, floods and other natural disaster sites around the world.

Thank you to Nancy and Shirley for purchasing the items for in the buckets and then packing the buckets.

Thank you to Mark and Dom Schrecengost for delivering them to the Presbytery.

The following thank you was received from Mrs. Kim Miller, a teacher at the Elderton Elementary School.
The deacons made a gift card donation to her family.

Elderton Presbyterian Church-

My husband and I are very grateful for your prayers as he continues his battle against cancer while at home on hospice. We are so extremely grateful to be part of an amazing community.

Your generosity of the gift certificates for the Elderton Country Market is extremely appreciated.

My apologies – I was unable to complete this before his passing. It happened quickly and he went peacefully with one of our sons and myself by his side. He had an opportunity to see those he most cherished before drawing his final breath.

Our family is so touched by your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely- Mrs. Kim Miller



“Angel Tree 2019”

**Elderton Presbyterian Church &
Butterfly Hill Preschool**
**participation in the “Christmas Angel Tree”
through Children & Youth Services
November 25 through December 10**

Our church and preschool are offering everyone to participate in a “Christmas Angel Tree” for children & families in need from Armstrong County. Helping these children to have a wonderful Christmas is our goal. Last year's Angel Tree was a huge success.

The “Christmas Angel Tree” will be located in the Upper Room with ornaments. On the back of each ornament is a child's name, age, sizes and gift(s) you would purchase.

- Please pick up an ornament starting November 25 when the tree is put up and Angel's hung on the tree
- Sign the Angel Tree Register (match Angel # with # in the Register)
- Purchase the gift(s)
 - Return the gift(s) **“unwrapped”** in a **Christmas gift bag** with the **ornament attached to the bag** by **December 10** (earlier, if possible for check-in purposes)
- Make sure to “check off” your Angel # in the Register before you leave
- Example of Angel Tree Register –

Angel #	Name / Family	Buyer	Check-Out	Check-In
#23	Brandon (family #1)	Jeanne Speer	11-26-17	12-09-19
#64	Jamey (family#2)	Martha Dyott	11-30-17	12-10-19



Angel Tree 2019

"Family Information"

The following family information has been received from Children & Youth Services for the Angel Tree. 12 families are to be helped.

Family # 1 - A child who is slightly autistic

Family # 2 - 2 children only

Family # 3 - Mother, Father & 1 child

Family # 4 - Mother, Father & 2 children

Family # 5 - 2 children only

Family # 6 - 1 child only

Family # 7 - 1 child only in group home

Family # 8 - 3 children only

Family # 9 - 1 child only

Family # 10 - 1 child only

Family # 11 - 3 children only

Family # 12 - 4 children only

When taking an angel or angels, if coat – add hat & gloves; if shoes – add socks, slippers. Use your imagination when buying the gifts! Books and coloring books are good ideas for those small things to add to the gift bag.

Gifts on the Angels have been sorted & separated to make it affordable for anyone to participate. You are allowed to take as many angels as you wish.

And have FUN making the holiday special for someone else! Gifts due back by 12/10/19 or before!



Butterfly Hill Preschool

Thanksgiving has come and gone – a little vacation time until the start of December activities. Nov. 25th the Pre-K students enjoyed a full turkey dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberry sauce and dessert. The morning and afternoon classes attended in the morning all together. While the students were in class, parents were invited to Kindergarten Transition Meeting in the sanctuary for a presentation from Armstrong School District teachers as to what to expect when their child goes to Kindergarten next fall.

The Caterpillars – 3 year olds – made their own Thanksgiving snack on Nov. 26th. A mini-cornucopia with a sugar cone and fresh fruit was made. They enjoyed making it and eating it!

The Christmas Angel Tree 2019 is in full swing. Info about the 12 families was received from CYS (Children & Youth Services). Angels were made, laminated and hung on 2 trees (preschool & church). A total of 102 angels were made for gift givers to pick off the tree, go shopping and have fun!

Angel Tree Gifts are due by December 10th or before!

Thanks to Jeanne and Martha for getting the angels ready and Kathy Jo for putting the tree up in the Upper Room for church members.

December is always a busy, fun month with lots of activities. The children love learning about the meaning of Christmas, the Story of Christmas and the reason for gifts. They are excited about the holiday season and Santa, but “all ears” when the Nativity Story is told. They know the story. They go home and tell the story to their families. The children will exchange names, participate in the Angel Tree gifts, Christmas parties and Christmas programs. For the Pre-K Christmas Program, the Elderton Senior Citizens have been invited to enjoy the children singing and reciting poems on Dec. 18th.

Butterfly Hill Preschool children and teachers appreciated the invitation to sing 2 songs and say a prayer on Nov. 10th during morning church services. The children did a great job. The sanctuary was full of church members and the children's families. We hope to do it again!

Preschool would like to thank everyone who participated in the Wreath, Grave Pillow, and Window Sill Boughs Fundraiser. **Delivery date is Tuesday, November 26th. Please note: change of delivery date!!!!**

**Everyone at Butterfly Hill Preschool wishes you a very
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2020!**

**“Children coming out of their cocoons and developing as beautiful Butterflies
in a Christian based preschool.”**



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year the Children's Christmas Program is entitled

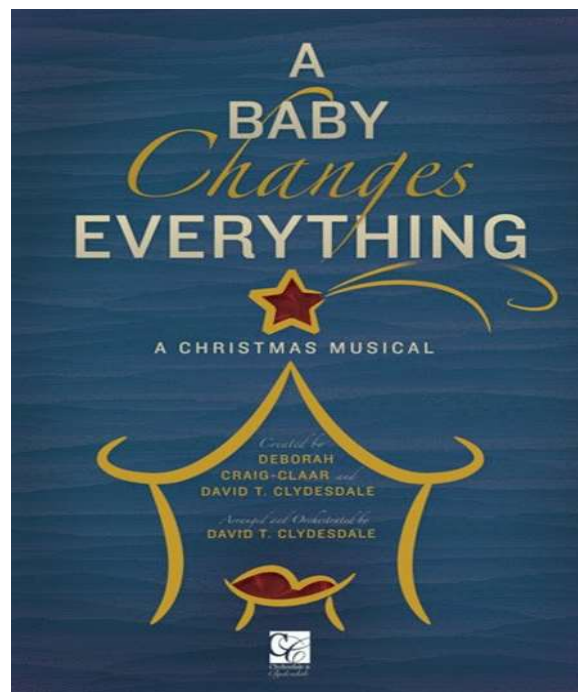


Join the children as they perform a funny rendition of "Twas the Night before Christmas" and a new version of the story, "Twas the Night Before Christ's Birth"

DECEMBER 22, 2019 During worship service
After the service, there will a cookie social in Fellowship Hall.

Please join us December 15, 10:30 AM

Our choir will lead us in worship with the Cantata



The service will include a drama, the choir, and children's choir.
Invite your family and friends to attend this wonderful drama about
Jesus' birth changing everything!



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Russ Brumbaugh
c/o the Fountains
2698 West Pike Road
Indiana, PA 15701

Harold Rankin
P.O. Box 217
Elderton, PA 15736

Edna Wells
160 Marwood Rd. Apt 2113
Cabot, PA 16023

Sandy McKissick
345 Gastown Road
Shelocta, PA 15774

Don Rearick
121 Hillcrest Drive
Shelocta, PA 15774

Also Remember

Russell Lynn Rizzo, Sr.
4511 E. 46th Ave.
Denver, CO 80216

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
Reagan JoAn Wirt -2 nd Alayna Zelenski – 4 th , Pastor Bill Milligan – 6 th Bradyn Rodgers – 6 th Taylor Wood – 10 th Sandy McKissick – 11 th Kale Shultz – 11 th Seth Pritt – 14 th Nancy Rupert – 15 th Emma Orr – 15 th Aybrah Zelenski – 16 th Linda Richardson – 19 th Lori Rodgers – 19 th Ron Aikins – 20 th Lanette Klonowski – 20 th Scott Coleman – 21 st Chuck Allison – 22 nd Angie Schrecengost – 22 nd Kristy Plavi – 23 rd Nick Schrecengost – 27 th Jessica Mummert – 29 th	Joe and Sonnie Serian – 8 th , 2004 15years Mark and Brittany Reed – 17 th , 2012 Kirk and Natalie Ryan – 22 nd , 2007 Don and Janet Rearick – 29 th , 1950

*God Bless you all this Christmas Day;
may Bethlehem's star still light the way
and guide thee to the perfect peace
when every fear and doubt shall cease;
and may thy home such glory know
as did the stable long ago.*

-Edgar A. Guest

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:15 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	9 6:00 PM Session and Deacons Meeting	10		12 Helping Hand 10:00 – 3:00	13	14
15 8:15 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service -Christmas Cantata 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:15 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service- Children's Program	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 	25 	26	27	28
29 8:15 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	30	31 Happy New Year Have Fun and Be Safe 				