

December

2023

ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER—NEWSLETTER — 2023

PASTOR'S PAGE

WISDOM FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:1-12

The story of the magi begins with a brief historical reference to the time of Jesus' birth. Matthew dates this event in the time of King Herod. King Herod was acclaimed by some for his massive building projects, he was at the same time feared and despised for his ruthless treatment of rivals and opponents. Herod's reputation was as a vicious politician anxious about his status as king.

While Herod is king, Matthew tells us that there is a delegation of wise men. We are told these are astrologers from the East. They may have been from Arabia or Babylonia. The Magi are considered Gentiles. The Magi represent the spiritual elite of the Gentile world, those who have taken wisdom as far as it can go.

Even though they were considered wise they still sought the maker of all wisdom, the king of the Jews. The shining star leading to the King of Kings was bright upon the savior of the world.

Wisdom defined by Oxford Dictionary is the body of knowledge and experience that develops within a specified society or period. We can also say it is having or showing experience, knowledge, and good judgment.

The Bible refers to wisdom quite a bit. My favorite is Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. The Magi were men who understood the worship of deities in their own land. They also knew of the Jewish God of the Hebrews. I always wondered if the Magi's visit to see Jesus affected their belief system.

The first time I went to church I was not seeking God at all. I definitely was not seeking wisdom. Even though God change my life and gave me some wisdom over the years, I was not seeking out the King of Kings. The Magi on the other hand was seeking the King of the Jews and for all intents and purposes worshipped him.

I deeply believe the Magi were changed and their belief system reflected it based on their travel to see Jesus and their worship of Jesus. Seeking God is the beginning of wisdom. When you seek God and find him, life is not the same. Life begins when God reveals himself to you. Life is never the same after God reveals himself.

We have seen the Savior and we are not the same. We have experienced the Word of God and live a new life. We worship the Lord Jesus Christ and have received the wisdom that is the most important. Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Merry Christmas!

Your Brother Because of Jesus,

Angel

GREETERS & ACOLYTE'S

If the date assigned to 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 10:00 AM. The bell should be rung 10 times at 10:15 and again at 10:30 AM. Please hand out the morning bulletin. Close the doors when the service begins. You will also take up the offering, get the collection plates before the service begins; they are on the first pew in the back section of the church (in the black cloth bag).

Please lock the front doors into the church. Pull to make sure the door is latched, use the small "key" found on the window ledge, insert it into the bar of the door and turn until the bar pops out. The handicap door will remain unlocked until 10 minutes into service (Cassie will take care of this.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
December 3	Tom Spencer and Chet Schall	Adalyn Quinn
December 10	Linda Richardson and Laney Brown	Liam Scrips
December 17	Cory and Kathy Jo Scrips	Aaron Quinn
December 24 (10:30 PM)	Joe Scrips and Dave Smail	Mia Scrips
December 31	Terry and Blythe Johns	Travis Johns
January 7	Brett and Joanie Riggle	Jonah Scrips



FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

December 3 – open

December 10 and 17 – Jennifer Johns

December 24 and 31 -

Joanie Riggle is the contact person for the flower calendar.

If anyone wishes to request a date for chancel flowers or for an organ/table arrangement, please schedule with Joanie - 724-954-1671.

Elderton Presbyterian Church
is hiring
a program director and teachers
for the Butterfly Hill Preschool Mission.

If you or someone you know
would be interested
in working at Butterfly Hill Preschool,
please mail your resume to:
Elderton Presbyterian Church
PO Box 159
Elderton, PA 15736
Or email resume to:
preschurch@eldertonpa.org



CHAIRPERSON'S & TREASURER'S

The written reports from the various committees will be due for the Annual Report on **January 5, 2024**

(It would be helpful if you can submit it sooner!)

PLEASE EMAIL your report to Susan – preschurch@eldertonpa.org

**REMEMBER THE BEST WAY TO GET SOMETHING
DONE IS TO START IT NOW!**

The financial reports, which includes all bank statements, cancelled checks, etc., will be due in the church office on **January 8, 2024** or as soon as you get your statements and can balance the account.



Please join us in the church office every Tuesday at 10:00 am for Prayer Time.

This is an opportunity for many to come together to continue to pray for our joys and concerns.

*Jesus said, "For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them
Matthew 18:20*



on November 12, 2023,
we welcomed into our church family
by reaffirmation of faith -

Bob Griffin

REMINDER Email addresses and phone numbers

If you have any changes in your address or telephone number or want to add your email address to the annual church directory, please give the information to the church office by December 20.

SURPRISE! **PASTOR'S PURSE**

It's Christmas time again!

As in the past we will collect a 'Christmas Purse' for Dr. De La Cruz.

Anyone wishing to give toward this gift can give money to Susan or Blythe by

December 15, 2023.

Thank You!



Start A New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1 - read one chapter of Luke in the Bible each day.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life.
You will wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!



Presbyterian Women Christmas Party

**December 13, 2023
12:30 PM**

at Nancy Schrecengost's Home

**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME
Please join is for a time of fellowship.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**DECEMBER 10
10:30**

During Worship Service

**Please join us to watch our
children bring the
Christmas Story to life
through songs and poems.**

**Directed by Emily Spencer
and Kathy Jo Scrips**





ELDERTON COMMUNITY LIGHT UP NIGHT

Saturday December 2, 2023

- 4 – 9 pm - Food available at the Firehall
Family activities at the Firehall
- 4 – 8 pm - Raffle Baskets & 50/50
- 4:45 pm – Parade registration and line up at Elderton Presbyterian Church
- 5:30 pm – Parade
- Tree Lighting following the parade
- Pictures with Santa at the Firehall following the parade
- Musical Performances throughout the evening in front of the Firehall

Interested in participation in the parade or have questions?
Contact Kevin 412-289-5063 or Celeste 724-840-1061



The United Methodist Charge for Christ presents the 4th annual

Drive Thru Live Nativity

at
Blanket Hill Speedway

Sunday, December 10, 2023

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

live animals – music – interactive story
monetary donations support our local food banks



Christmas Poinsettias

Orders will be taken

Nov. 19, 26, and Dec 3

for the Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

The price is \$8.75 for a 6 ½ inch pot with 4-6 blooms.

The color choices are red, white or pink.

Please contact the church office 734-354-3117 or

Joanie Riggle 724-954-1671 to place an order.



Elderton Presbyterian Church and Butterfly Hill Preschool

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

through Children & Youth Services of Armstrong County

We are offering everyone a chance to participate in the Angel Tree

That helps children and families in need from Armstrong County.

The Angel Tree is located in the Upper Room with ornaments.

on the back of each ornament is the information needed to purchase gifts.

Be sure to record the ornament information in the folder
located on the piano, using the **ANGEL** number only.

Place unwrapped items in a gift bag and return to the church by

December 8, 2023



Merry Christmas

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise man.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Wishing you Christmas Joy!
Love,
Butterfly Hill Preschool Staff

CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR

December 1 – Go shopping with a friend

December 2 – Feed the birds

December 3 – Donate any of the following to the Food Bank

- Please
bring to
Worship
Service.
- Toothpaste and dental floss
 - Bodywash
 - Mouthwash
 - Shampoo and conditioner
 - Deodorant

December 4 – Do some Christmas decorating

December 5 – Make homemade candy

December 6 – Sing your favorite Christmas song

December 7 – Bake Christmas cookies

December 8 – Watch at least one Hallmark Christmas movie

December 9 – Send Christmas cards

December 10 - Donate any of the following to the Food Bank

- Please
bring to
Worship
Service.
- Laundry soap
 - Fabric softener
 - Stain remover
 - Bleach

December 11 – Put a holiday puzzle together

December 12 – Call or text someone you haven't seen in a while

December 13 – Make an ornament for your Christmas Tree

December 14 – Have you ever eaten fruit cake? Now's the time!

December 15 – Bake a cookie recipe you never made before

December 16 – If you haven't done it, decorate your tree

December 17 - Donate any of the following to the Food Bank

- Please
bring to
Worship
Service.
- Lysol or other cleaning products
 - Dish soap
 - Hand soap
 - Paper towels
 - Toilet paper

December 18 – Give your thumbs a rest, turn off the cell phone for at least 1 hour

December 19 – Have you watched the “Christmas Story” yet?

December 20 – Do you know a Grinch? Give them some Christmas cookies

December 21 – Live dangerously, watch another Hallmark movie.

December 22 – Last minute “Shop til you drop”

December 23 – It's never too late to hang mistletoe

December 24 – Attend Christmas Eve Service

December 25 – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
Reagan JoAn Wirt -2 nd Alayna Zelenski – 4 th , Bradyn Rodgers – 6 th Colton Fairman – 9 th Taylor Wood – 10 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 Angie Schrecengost – 22 nd Kristy Plavi – 23 rd Nick Schrecengost – 27 th Jessica Mummert – 29 th	Mark and Brittany Reed – 17 th , 2012 - 10 years Kirk and Natalie Ryan – 22 nd , 2007 – 15 years



Please Join Us

A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held December 24, 2023.

This year our candle light service will begin at **10:30 PM.**

A beautiful service is being planned with a Christmas message, communion, and lots of music. Please come help us celebrate our Lord Jesus' birth.

We will not have Sunday school or a MORNING worship service on December 24, 2023.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4:00-9:00 – Elderton Community Light-up Night
3 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service – First Sunday in Advent	4	5 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	6	7	8 Angel tree gifts must be returned to the church today	9
10 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service- Second Sunday of Advent	11	12 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	13 12:30 –PW Christmas Party - Nancy’s house	14 6:00 – Deacon’s Meeting 6:00 - Session Meeting	15	16
17 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service- Third Sunday of Advent Children’s Christmas Program	18	19 9:00 – Toddler Time Christmas Program 10:00 – Office Prayer Time 10:00 – 3:00 Helping Hand	20 9:00 – Caterpillar Christmas Program 11:00 Caterpillar Christmas Program	21 9:00 – Butterfly Christmas Program 11:00 – Butterfly Christmas Program	22	23
24  10:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Fourth Sunday of Advent Communion	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 Church office closed	27	28	29	30
31 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service HAPPY NEW YEAR	PLEASE NOTE: Christmas Eve Service is at 10:30 PM We will not have Sunday school or a morning worship service on December 24, 2023.					