



2025

ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER – NEWSLETTER – 2025

PASTORS PAGE

“What Are You Expecting?” Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

What are you expecting this year for Christmas? Is it something you have been hinting about? Maybe a sweater, a pair of shoes, a favorite hunting gun? What are you expecting this year for Christmas? There is a larger expectation looming in our lives this Christmas. We wait for the blessed hope and manifestation of glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Paul was writing to Titus, encouraging him to continue the work he had begun. Paul is also encouraging Titus that his hope is not in vain as he waits for the manifestation of the glory of Jesus. However, while Titus waits, Paul wants Titus to live uprightly, self-controlled, and godly. In the letter to Titus, Paul also encourages the reality of God's grace training to renounce impiety and worldly passions.

While we look forward to Christmas and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts are to contemplate the soon appearing of the manifestation of the glory of our Great Savior Jesus Christ in his return. Jesus Christ is soon to return and take his church triumphant. However, while we wait, we are being instructed and shaped by the power of the Holy Spirit to give God glory. We are learning to live out the call of Christ by loving one another as Christ loved us. We are learning to become well-rounded citizens of the Kingdom by living a daily godly life.

During this Christmas season, we are to live the kind of life that exhibits the Christian witness. Our lives witness to the love of God shown to us through the cross of Christ. We are a redeemed people saved from all iniquity, which is something we can rejoice in. The Holy Spirit is training or guiding us by his grace to live a life that resists worldly passions and renounces impiety.

What are we expecting for Christmas? The expectation of the Christian is the coming of our Savior. The Holy Spirit has graced us to know Jesus Christ's salvation of our souls. This gives us an expectation of his second coming. This expectation provides us with the desire to do good works, such as give our time, talents, and treasure to the church's mission. The Heifer Project, In His Name Fund, Presbyterian Women's Hunger Offering, and the Angel Tree are considered good works. Christmas is coming. Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord.

Yours Because of Calvary,

Angel

GREETERS & ACOLYTES

IF THE DATE ASSIGNED TO YOU CONFLICTS WITH YOUR SCHEDULE,
PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE ELSE ON THE LIST
AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF THIS CHANGE.

As a greeter, you should arrive at the door by 10:00 a.m. Please distribute the morning bulletin.

You will ring the bell 10 times at 10:15 and again at 10:30 a.m.

Close all of the doors when the service begins.

You will also collect the offering. Please retrieve the collection plates before the service starts; they are in the black cloth bag on the first pew in the back section of the church.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
December 7	Linda Richardson and Laney Brown	Emily Johns
December 14	Eric and Susan Schrecengost	London Smith
December 21	Chet Schall and Tom Spencer	Lucy Taylor
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Jim and Robin Shaffer	Mia Scrips
December 28	Mia Scrips and Evie Grantz	Zachary Smith
January 4	Jeff and Marcia Elgin	Aaron Quinn

ALTER FLOWER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

December 7 and 14 – Joanie Riggle

December 21 and 28 – open

January 4 and 11 – open

To sign up for flowers, please call Joanie Riggle

724-954-1671



You are warmly invited to celebrate the
joy and hope of Christmas at our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
on December 24, 2025.

This year, our service will begin at 8:00 PM.

Come, enjoy a peaceful evening of scripture,
uplifting Christmas music, and the soft
glow of candlelight as we welcome
the birth of Christ together.

All are welcome, bring your family,
friends and neighbors!

Join us on December 4, 2025, at 4:00 PM
to decorate the sanctuary and the
Christmas tree for the holiday season.

All ages are welcome –

many hands make light work.

Enjoy the fellowship and the joy of getting
our church ready for this special time of year.





SURPRISE!

PASTOR'S PURSE

We're excited to continue our tradition of collecting a "Christmas Purse" for Dr. De La Cruz this year.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation and gratitude. If you would like to contribute to this special gift, please make your donations to Susan or Blythe by December 14.

We'll present the Christmas Purse on December 21, and your generosity will truly brighten this festive season for Dr. De La Cruz.



The Presbyterian Women are excited to enhance our dinner experience by purchasing trays that will make it much easier to carry your plates and bowls.

For just \$27.00, we can get a package of 12 trays that will be a valuable addition to our gatherings.

If you want to help make our dinners more enjoyable, please see Dee Craig to place your order. Your support is greatly appreciated!



CHAIRPERSON'S & TREASURER'S

The written reports from the various committees will be due for the Annual Report on **January 9, 2026**

(It would be helpful if you could 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 include all bank statements, canceled checks, etc., will be due in the church office on **January 13, 2026** or as soon as you get your statements and can balance the account.

The Presbyterian Women warmly invite
all women (all ages) of the congregation to a
Christmas Dinner on
December 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM
in Fellowship Hall
We will have a cookie exchange,
please bring your favorite cookie to share.
Enjoy good food and festive fellowship.

R.S.V.P. by December 7, 2025
to Nancy Schrecengost
724-354-2071



On November 9, 2026,
with joy and thanksgiving
we welcomed into our church family
by reaffirmation of faith
Matthew Smith
Hope Smith



On Sunday, November 9, 2025,
we participated in the baptism of
Andersen Paul Smith
son of
Matthew and Hope Smith

In a spirit of thanksgiving and promise,
let us dedicate ourselves to
nurturing and guiding
Andersen in the Christian faith.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

We are grateful to share that Elderton Presbyterian Church and Butterfly Hill Preschool is participating in our 13th year of the Angel Tree for the Christmas season.

Each year, we receive names and gift ideas from Armstrong County CYS, offering us the chance to bless children and families in need within our community.

As we look forward to this yearly tradition, we continue to show overwhelming generosity, helping keep this meaningful mission alive.

The Angel Tree is located in the Upper Room

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.

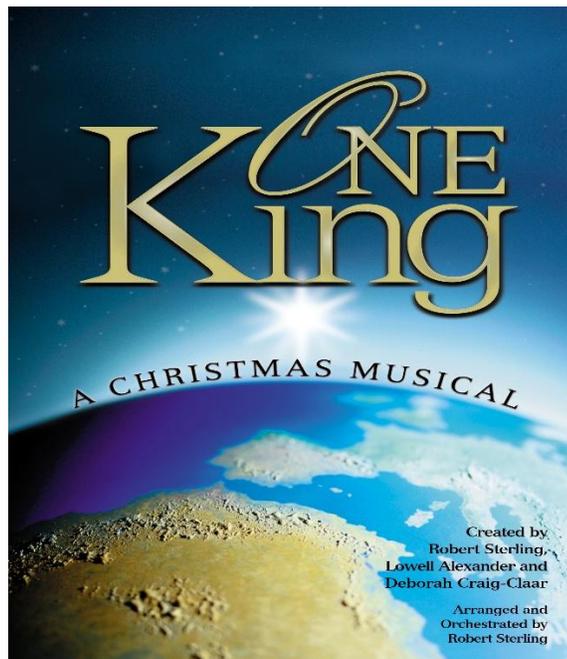
Place unwrapped items in a gift bag and return them to the church by **December 7, 2025**

The gifts will be delivered to CYS after the worship service on December 7, 2025

We warmly invite you to experience the magic of the season as the Elderton Presbyterian Church Choir presents a captivating Christmas Musical

"One King"

on December 21, 2025, during our worship service at 10:30 AM.





This holiday season, we want to prioritize our homebound members.
 It's essential that we reach out and ensure they feel included and appreciated.
 Let's take action to make a positive impact on their lives.

Helen Bowser, Room 101

Beacon Ridge
 1515 Wayne Ave
 Indiana, PA 15701

Jo Foster, Room 226

Montage Mason
 5373 Merten Drive
 Mason, Ohio 45040

Alice Graham

120 Kittanning Care Drive
 Kittanning, PA 16201

Dewey & Veda Hixenbaugh

190 Bash Road
 Shelocta, PA 15774

Butch Rodgers

PO Box 119
 Elderton, PA 15736

Nancy Rupert

Grey's Colonial Acres Home
 272 Colonial Drive
 Kittanning, PA 16201

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Miles Smith – 2nd
 Kris Grew-Longwell – 4th
 Bradyn Rodgers – 6th
 Colton Fairman – 9th
 Taylor Wood – 10th
 Nancy Rupert – 15th
 Emma Orr – 15th
 Hunter Myers – 15th
 Aybrah Zelenski – 16th
 Linda Richardson – 19th
 Lori Rodgers – 19th
 Ron Aikins – 20th
 Lanette Klonowski – 20th
 Scott Coleman – 21st
 Angie Schrecengost – 22nd
 Robin Shaffer – 22nd
 Andersen Smith – 26th

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Eric and Kris Grew-Longwell – 19th- 1992

ELDERTON COMMUNITY LIGHT-UP NIGHT 2025

A WARM WELCOME

Dear Elderton Friends,
As the holiday season approaches, we warmly welcome you to join us for Elderton Community Light-Up Night 2025, filled with joy, love, and the spirit of giving. We have expanded the event and hope that it adds a little extra joy and Christmas cheer to you and your family!

FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

2nd Annual Elderton Festival of Trees: December 6th thru January 1st located in the Lot in front of Clark Chapel/Bauer Funeral Home.

Christmas Market: Located inside Elderton High School from 2PM-8PM, shop from local artists and handcrafted goods during Elderton Community Light-Up Night, Saturday December 6th, 2025.

Crafts/Activities: Complimentary Crafts/Activities will be



located inside Elderton High School with a special Story Time with Ms. Barbara at 3PM.

Elderton Volunteer Fire Department: Kitchen will be open 3PM-9PM but will close 15 minutes prior to the Parade and will reopen following the Parade.

Pictures with Santa: Complimentary Pictures with Santa courtesy of Photos by Cory Stivason, at Elderton Volunteer Fire Department following the Tree Lighting. Don't forget your letter to Santa!

Bicycle Raffle & Basket Raffle: Elderton Plumcreek Recreation Park will be hosting their Annual Bike Raffle. Each child will receive a complimentary entry. As well as their Basket Raffle Fundraiser and 50/50. Located at the Firehall 3PM-8PM.

Elderton Merry & Bright Home Decorating Contest: Residents of Elderton Borough are invited to spread holiday cheer during Elderton Community Light-Up Night by decorating their homes for a chance to win the title of Elderton's Merry & Bright Home of 2025 and the Jackpot CASH Prize! For details

and to enter contact Jennifer Redick (724-525-3114).

Food Trucks: 4PM-9PM at Elderton State Bank Annex Parking Lot.

Parade: Beginning at 5PM at S. Main St. and ending at Elderton Presbyterian Church.

Tree Lighting: Following the Parade at the Post Office.

A SEASON OF GIVING

This year, as in years past, Elderton Volunteer Fire Department is committed to giving back to our community by hosting their annual Toy Drive. Toys collection located at the Firehall

Elderton Elementary PTA will be hosting their annual Food Drive during this time. Non-perishable food, juices/teas, hygiene products, laundry as well as paper products will be collected. Donations can be brought to the PTA donation box in Elderton High School. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

WISHING YOU JOY

As we close this newsletter, we send our warmest wishes to you and your family. May your holiday season be filled with love, laughter, and countless blessings. We look forward to another year of cherished moments and unforgettable experiences. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 4:00 - Decorate the Christmas tree and the Sanctuary	5	6 Elderton Light Up Night
7 8:30- Choir Practice 9:30- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	8	9	10 6:00 – PW Christmas Party	11 6:00 - Session Meeting 6:00 - Deacons Meeting	12	13
14 8:30- Choir Practice 9:30- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	15	16 11:00 – Men's Bible Study at Crouse's Cafe	17	18	19	20
21 8:30- Choir Practice 9:30- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service "One King" musical cantata	22	23	24 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27
28 8:30- Choir Practice 9:30- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	29	30	31			