

BREAD BASKET December 2022 NEWS

HARRISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE PHONE: 724-735-4671
secretary@harrisvilleumc.org
Website: Harrisvilleumc.org



Wait (And Breathe)

We have entered the season of Advent – where, according to tradition, we both reenact the historical waiting for the coming of the birth of Christ and honor and celebrate our vigilance for Christ’s Second Coming.

But waiting is not really an event, is it? It’s an event’s precursor. And if the waiting is not for an identifiable space of time – a vigil, say, over a particular period of minutes, hours, days, months – even years – how does the waiting not get lost in the grand wash of time? There’s the problem. We’re talking about centuries! Centuries before Christ, centuries after Christ, we were and have been waiting. It’s easy to lose focus. It’s easy to lose a feeling of relevance.

The letters of Paul tell us that the early Church was still keen for the next coming, even decades after the end of Christ’s life on earth. But now? We’ve heard cranks and crackpots announcing Christ’s imminent coming year after year. We’ve appropriately learned to ignore them – not only because the predictions obviously weren’t true, but also because they were based on nonsense in the first place. Jesus himself said that he would come like a thief in the night – that no one would know when he would come. He said, essentially, we should always be waiting.

In a culture which despises waiting; which wants, and often gets, everything NOW, this should be an especially useful and instructive discipline to adopt – even if it’s for only a few weeks in December each year. What do you do to help you wait for things? How do you keep it together? How do you keep your cool and maintain your focus? How do you keep it real?

When I was growing up, my father, who never played competitive baseball himself, would often try to give me “tips” on how to play baseball. While well-meaning, these tips were almost always not useful. He did give me one tip that I did find helpful, though. He said that when I was in the on deck circle waiting to bat, I should take a deep breath. This, I found, did help me to calm myself and pull my focus together. Similarly, and more famously, expectant mothers are trained to intentionally breathe while delivering their babies. Focusing on this most essential function of our bodies can pull us away from the worry and anxiety driven by our minds back into the centering and surprisingly vast potential our bodies and spirits have to deal with almost anything.

In this season when we should be focusing on waiting, consider opening yourself to the discipline and practice of effective spiritual vigilance. Focus on the ultimate spiritual priorities in your life. Find a reservoir inside yourself away from the stress and the clamor. Sit yourself down and meditate. Be still and know that God is God (Ps. 46:10).

And breathe.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow (for those who wait),

Pastor Ken

BTW, be sure to join us at 7:30 on Christmas Eve at Forestville UMC for a joint candlelight service. And then join us on Christmas morning at 11 at Harrisville. See you there!

**In Sanctuary Worship
Sundays at 11AM**

**Next Council meeting
December 6 @ 7PM
NO COUNCIL IN JANUARY**

**Christmas Eve Service
Forestville UMC
730PM**

**Christmas Day Service
11:00AM**

**Blanket Ministry on hiatus
until Spring**



OCTOBER 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT *
Designated Money

Closing Balance Mercer County Bank	\$618.13
Designated Money	
Local Missions	\$807.00
Outreach—Bike Ministry	\$428.00
Care Team	\$481.58
Spirit of Hope	\$1,000.00
Youth	\$1,003.88
Property Tax	\$81.23
Shields Foundation	\$1,500.00
Snyder Fund 2021	\$1,000.00
Total Designated Money	\$6,401.69
Working Balance General Fund	(\$5,783.56)
Total Income to General Fund for October 2022	\$10,329.77**
Total Expenditure from General Fund in October 2022	\$10,836.27

Needs to be ratified by Church Council
**Does not include October 30th collection

FINANCE REPORT*	THRU SEPT	THRU OCT	YTD
GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$91,260.56	\$10,329.77	\$101,590.33
SPENDING FROM GENERAL FUND	\$101,870.08	\$10,836.27	\$112,706.35
NET SURPLUS / (Deficit)	(\$7,261.64)	(\$506.50)	(\$11,116.35)

*Ratified by Church Council

**FEED MY SHEEP FOOD BANK
STATISTICS
FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

Total: Family Members:	186	Slippery Rock Area:	56
Families:	102	Slippery Rock Boro:	34
Seniors	69	Harrisville:	12
Adults:	84	New	12
Children	33		

*For those in need, contact:
724-421-5274*

113 Families received Thanksgiving Fixings

**If you know someone in need of food,
please call:
724-421-5274**

**Deliveries can be made for those unable or
fearful of going out Present hours: Tues &
Thurs 2:00 to 3:00
Sat: by appointment**

**Feed My Sheep December
Request**

**Chunky Soup
Cake Mix
Icing
Hot Chocolate Mix
Marshmallows
Popcorn**



prayers & petitions

PRAYER LIST: To be added to the prayer requests, email the church at secretary@harrisvilleumc.org. If you have an urgent request, please contact Pastor Ken at 724-986-3486 or kenmiller_20@hotmail.com. You may also contact Mae Lynn Edwards @ 724-735-4154 or schweety@zoominternet.net. An * beside a name indicates that the name will be kept on the list indefinitely. If you want to keep or add a name on the list, please indicate it on the back of your Connect Card, call the church office & leave a message (724-735-4671) or email at secretary@harrisvilleumc.org.

Dee Thompson*	Linda Faller*	James Patton*	Nevada Kelly*
Marcia Carnahan	The Gunniers family*	Marilyn Brinker*	Tony Kearney*
Audrey Clark*	Douglas Gradisar, nephew of John & Jennie McKee who needs a heart transplant	Jenny Gannon Guilliland*	Velma Wissen, Ron Gunniers Sister*
Virginia Hockenberry*	John Stalker*	Bryce Bennett*	Connie Rider*
Matthew Croup*	Shirley Burr*	Zachory Boozel*	Betty Donaldson on the death of her son, Gary
Connie Thompson*	Gary Hoffman*	Kathy Barnes*	
Keith Reddinger	HUMC*	Our Military*	Our Country*

The congregation extends it's sympathy to Betty Donaldson on the death of her son, Gary.

CELEBRATE!

December Birthdays	
12/4	Robert Tarr
12/9	Jennie McKee
12/15	Tracey Knox
12/18	Renee Boozel
12/24	Bruce Rider E J Webb
12/26	Kip Buchannan
12/29	Linda Reddinger
12/31	Tina Webb

December Anniversaries	
12/17	Keith & Linda Reddinger
12/30	Jim & Margie Bonetti

January Anniversaries	
1/3	Carl & Evelyn Baum
1/5	Bruce & Connie Rider

January Birthdays	
1/2	Ellie Upton
1/3	Clayton Tarr Jon Manz
1/4	Rosemary Stalker
1/8	Evelyn Baum
1/10	Walter Coyer
1/16	Connie Rider John P. Stalker
1/19	Valeria Coyer
1/20	Carol Codispot Robert Patton
1/23	Pastor Ken Miller
1/27	Paul Stalker Jonah Foster Jeff Canter
1/30	Traci Foster Dottie Van Dyke



Pray for HUMC Every Day

- Grow in the Holy Spirit
- Grow in Our Outreach
- Grow in Disciple-Making
- Grow in Our Financial Support

Care

"Love one another as I have loved"

Many of our longtime members are no longer able to attend services or get around like they used to. The Care team helps with visitation, care packages, and small acts of kindness on holidays. This committee is also responsible for sending care packages to our college students and military while they are away.

OUR SHUT-INS

- Kathy Barnes
Quality Life Services
8221 Lamar Road
Mercer, PA 16137
- Betty Donaldson
The Lakes at Jefferson
Rm BE 118
7271 W. Market Street
Mercer, Pa 16137
- Connie Emmett
Shenango On The Green
Room 233
238 S. Market Street
New Wilmington, PA 16142
- Marilyn Brinker
234 Amsterdam Road
Grove City, PA 16127
724-748-6226

*Please
Send
Them
a Card*



OFFERING COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

DEC. 4	Sondra Buchanan	Martha Jones
DEC. 11	Connie Rider	Martha Jones
DEC 18	Lutie Clausen	Bill Hagan
DEC 25	Denise Conrad	Tana Manz

May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessings, & the peace of Jesus' presence be with you always. Merry Christmas!

" A little child,
A shining star,
A stable crude,
The door ajar
Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The hope of all
The world was born."
Anonymous

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of food items to the Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard. Your donation will help us to respond to the needy families in this area.

**Gratefully yours,
Shirley Osbourn, Secretary**



During this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to reach out and extend a thank you to all of you who make food and prayer cloths for the students in the OT program at SRU. Just over a year ago, I lost my husband at the age of 50. It hasn't been easy for my daughter, Mikala to stay focused on her studies. What you all do for the students makes a huge impact. It is truly a blessing to my daughter. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

**Wishing you all blessing during this holiday season.
Sincerely,
Teresa Peluso**