



# *The Messenger*

A publication of the Effort United Methodist Church

**December 2025 AND January 2026**

## **Our Mission**

*“The purpose of the Effort United Methodist Church is to know, love and serve God and one another in Christian Community, welcoming all to grow as followers of Jesus Christ.*

## **Ways to Connect:**

Address: 178 Merwinsburg Rd. (PO Box 545), Effort, PA 18330

Office phone: 570-629-1890 (Jan Decker, Administrative Assistant)

(Hours: 8:30am – 2:30pm Mon-Fri)

Email: [eumc103@ptd.net](mailto:eumc103@ptd.net)

Website: [www.effortumc.org](http://www.effortumc.org)

Facebook: Effort United Methodist Church

Instagram: [effortunitedmethodist](https://www.instagram.com/effortunitedmethodist)

Youth Group Instagram: [e.u.m.c.wavewalkers](https://www.instagram.com/e.u.m.c.wavewalkers)

## **Help Us to Connect with You:**

Should you want to get on our contact list for email, or have a change in your email address (or home address, phone number), please contact Jan at the church office (570-629-1890; [eumc103@ptd.net](mailto:eumc103@ptd.net)).

Newsletter distributed generally monthly via email, at church or via mail. Information for the February 2026 Messenger is due to Roxane Martin by ***Sunday, January 25, 2026***. Email Roxane at [martgr@ptd.net](mailto:martgr@ptd.net) or place in Newsletter mailbox across from the church office.

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## **REMINDERS:**

- **The Church office will be closed on: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**
- **Blue Christmas service, Sunday December 7th at 3pm.** This service will offer scripture, songs, and words of hope/encouragement for anyone who is struggling. All are welcome.
- **Christmas Eve Services** are at **4pm** (Lessons and Carols), **6pm** Family service with Sunday School participation, **8pm** Traditional service. All are candlelight services.
- **2026 will be full of activities**—keep checking in for what's going on!

# Pastor's Corner

## Whom Will You Invite?

As I shared this past Sunday in worship, you are doing a wonderful job of inviting people to come and see how God is at work here at Effort UMC. God is at work through your personal invites! Keep up the good work – keep inviting!

Also, if you are looking for the podcast I mentioned in worship this past Sunday (November 23), here is the information: “*Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast*” – November 6<sup>th</sup> episode entitled, “*The Real Difference Between Growing and Declining Churches with Thom Rainer*.” I would encourage you to listen to this very encouraging episode, and continue to contemplate this amazing statistic (given by Thom Rainer):

- *If you invite someone to church, approximately 18 percent will accept your invitation. When you invite someone to church, and to coffee, breakfast, or lunch after the service – the percentage of invitation acceptance jumps up to 80 percent!*

What a blessing it is to have a delicious home-cooked breakfast, prepared by Bob Decker and the Trustees of this church, once a month! Feel free to use every breakfast as an opportunity to invite someone to come hear the good news of Jesus Christ and to share a wonderful meal. In addition, I wanted to let you know there are so many great opportunities to invite, during the Christmas Season:

- Advent / Christmas Bible Study, led by Jeff Albert. Tuesday evenings Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm at the church.
- Family Christmas Celebration: Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm.
- Youth Ministry Christmas Party: Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 3:00pm (3<sup>rd</sup> – 12 graders).
- Blue Christmas Worship Service: Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm (*A service of hope for those struggling during the Christmas Season*).
- Breakfast Sunday: Sunday December 14, 9:30 – 10:45am (between the two services).
- Christmas Caroling to Mrs. Bush’s residential home and Brookmont nursing home: Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>, leaving from church at 1:30pm.
- Effort Women’s Group – Ladies Night In w/ a fantastic dinner by Mr. Bob: Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm.
- Christmas Party (and Dinner) for Seniors: Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00pm.
- Christmas Eve: Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 4:00pm – Service of Lessons and Carols (*w/ candle lighting*).
  - 6:00pm – Children and Families Christmas Service (*w/candle lighting*).
  - 8:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service (*w/candle lighting*).
- New Year Bible Study via Zoom: Wednesdays at 6:30pm (January 7 – February 4). “*The Book of 2 Peter by Kyle Idleman*” led by Kathy Clawges.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas Season as we worship Christ together!

Pastor Scott Kuhnle

# *Special Notices*

**Church weather closings:** As the “cooler” weather approaches and the white stuff may be arriving soon, please note that information on church closings during inclement weather, can be found on: Church webpage ([www.effortumc.org](http://www.effortumc.org)), church Facebook page, or listen on WSBG radio 93.5.

**Advent Evening Bible Study:** A 4 week Bible Study on **Tuesday evenings** from 6:30 to 7:30 pm entitled: *The Wonder of Christmas* has commenced in the former Day Care Kitchen. Meeting dates are: **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>**. Why not join us?! No sign up required. Remember to bring your Bible.

**Zoom Bible Study:** Bible Study on "The Book of 2 Peter" by Kyle Idelman will be offered via ZOOM on **Wednesday evenings** from **January 7 - February 4, 2026**. Time: 6:30 - 7:30pm. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center.

**2026 Offering Envelopes:** The 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available for you to pick up in the Narthex starting **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not have an envelope and would like one, please see Jan in the office. Likewise, if you have been assigned an envelope number and wish to go to EFT, contact Jan so that the number can be reissued. We are trying to be good stewards of our finances.

**2026 Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors:** The sign up sheets for 2026 Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsors are now posted on the bulletin board next to the Library. Altar Flowers are \$30.00 per vase and the Bulletin sponsorship is \$15.00. Hurry on over to sign up for those special dates you want as they go pretty fast.

## *Upcoming Happenings*

**Christmas Family Celebration** will be held on **December 6<sup>th</sup>** (see Missions for more details).

**Angel Tree:** The “Angel Tree” is set up in the Narthex. This year we have 40 “Angels” that we are supporting through PVEN. If you would like to take an “Angel”, please be reminded to bring the **UNWRAPPED** gifts back to the church with the child’s number on the gift(s) no later than **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. The church representative must have the gifts delivered to PVEN between 8:00am and 12:00pm on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for sharing in God’s love! Note: if you are supporting an “angel” and attending the Family Christmas Celebration, you can bring your gift(s) at that time as well.

**Christmas Caroling:** On **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025** the Sunday School children and members of the congregation will be going to visit the residents at the Mrs. Bush Residential Home and Brookmont nursing home. We are planning to leave the church at 1:30 and return at 5pm. A light lunch will be provided after the 11am service in Friendship Hall.

**Christmas Cantata:** The Cantata this year is entitled *Jesus Makes Christmas a Holy Day*. The Cantata will be presented at both services on **Sunday, December 14th**.

**Fellowship Breakfasts:** will be held on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026** from 9:30 to 10:30 am in Wesley Hall. Bring the family, a few friends and your appetite for a delicious meal. This is a free will offering event that is open to all. See you there!

**Soup Sale:** *There will be NO Soup sale for December.* The next Soup sale will run from January 2<sup>nd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and includes the following soups: to be determined (check the bulletins). \$6.00 per quart. Orders are being taken through **January 21<sup>st</sup>** with the pick-up date of **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** after each service. Order form is on the Welcome Center.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** Thank you to all who ordered flowers to help our sanctuary look festive. All flowers can be picked up **after the 8pm church service** on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas party for our Seniors:** We are planning a dinner for the seniors (*60 years of age and over*) in our congregation for **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00 pm. We want to thank you for all the support of the church and our youth programs that you have given. This is a *free* event for our seniors only and we are encouraging you to join in some fellowship and to enjoy the Christmas season. Meal will be prepared by Bob Decker. A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Center. We must know a number attending by **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**New Members Classes:** Thinking about joining us? New Membership Classes (3 in total) are scheduled to start in **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026** right after the 11:00 am service. Those completing the classes will be taken into Membership on **April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)**. A sign-up sheet can be found on the Welcome Center.

## *Opportunities to Serve*

**Nursery Volunteers:** The Nursery is normally open only during the 11:00 am service. If you love children and are willing to volunteer one hour of your time to tend for and to care for those little ones in our church. Background checks and clearances are required. If you need background checks, please contact Jan in the office. Thanking you in advance for your support of this ministry.

**Ushers and Greeters:** We have reconvened the use of Ushers and Greeters at our services! This means we will be in need of a few people who would like to participate in accepting the offerings and greet people as they enter the church. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Wichman who will be coordinating this opportunity for service. You can reach Michelle at: [mlwich@ptd.net](mailto:mlwich@ptd.net).

**Liturgist, Scripture Readers, & Communion Stewards:** We are in the process of updating our various lists of volunteers who serve in one or several of the aforementioned areas. Should you be interested in continuing to serve or would like to be added to specific area of serving, please contact the church office and we will get you on the schedule. The schedule will be on a rotational basis. Great opportunity for our young people as well to get involved with service.

# *Opportunities for Children and Families*

## **Christian Education**

Any questions or concerns, please see Brenda Mitchell, Christian Education Director ([eumchrist@ptd.net](mailto:eumchrist@ptd.net))

**Nursery:** available at the 11:00am service for ages Newborn to 3 years old.

**Sunday School:** Classes are held during the 11:00 am services (September through May).

Classes are grouped as follows:

Body Building—3 years of age through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Intermediate—3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Middle School—6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

High School—9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, meeting 2x/month

### **December Activities--.**

**Christmas Family Celebration- December 6, 2025-** starting at 5pm. (see Missions for details).

**Happy Birthday Jesus-** will take place on **December 7, 2025** during Sunday School. All classes will be combined for the Celebration of the birth of Christ.

**Nursing home visits.** On **December 14th, 2025**, the Sunday School children and members of the congregation will be going to visit the residents at Mrs. Bush's Residential Home and Brookmont nursing home. We are planning to leave the church at 1:30pm and return at 5pm. A light lunch will be provided after the 11am service in Friendship Hall. Contact Ms. Brenda for more information.

**Christmas Eve Service at 6pm.** The Sunday School children will participate in the Nativity Scene, and the placing the ornaments on the trees will take place during this service.

**Young Adult Group:** Is a self-run group meeting monthly or as scheduled for ages 18-26. Interested persons can contact Deb Audett, [daudett@ptd.net](mailto:daudett@ptd.net), for additional information.

## **Preschool at Effort UMC**

Do you know of anyone looking for a wonderful Pre-school program or if you have any questions about either the 3 year old or Pre-K programs, please call the church office or speak with Miss Gail by calling 570-629-1890 ext. 201.

## WaveWalkers Youth Group

The Wavewalkers hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and if you bought any baked goods from our bake sale, we hope they blessed your belly. We had an array of pies and breads and cupcakes and brownies; we even had sugar-free cookies. Everything came out great and looked amazing and our church family was a generous blessing to our ministry. We raised over \$1000! That was very humbling. Thank you for loving these youth of ours!

Coming up right around the corner is our annual Wavewalkers Christmas Party. We have this every year. This year it is on December 7, from 12:30-3:30pm. We have a nice lunch with desserts and we play a bunch of games and we have a gift exchange. If you know a child in 3rd grade up to 12th grade contact one of our leaders to get more information.

After our party we have no more meetings until the New Year. But as I reflect on 2025, I see all that we have done as a group. We have grown and gained new members. We have gone to Winter Jam and sang worship songs all night. We have gone to the movies to watch an animated film King of Kings. We held our very own lock-in here at our church. We traveled and went to our favorite retreat. There was our trip to Mazezilla, which was a ton of fun. And in between all of that there were all of our meetings, where we hung out playing games, eating our favorite foods, and learning about our favorite person, Jesus Christ. We are excited about 2026. We know that God has a whole lot more for us. And I will make sure to tell you all about it. Merry Christmas and may EUMC be blessed by our Lord in 2026.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

Our meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.

**December 7th, 2025, 12:30-2:30 pm**

**January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 12:30-2:30 pm**

Contact Alison Laxton, [alaxton@ptd.net](mailto:alaxton@ptd.net), Deb Audett, [daudett@ptd.net](mailto:daudett@ptd.net), Theresa Mayo, [mayo43093@aol.com](mailto:mayo43093@aol.com) or Melissa Roberti, [mlenjr@frontier.com](mailto:mlenjr@frontier.com) for additional information.

## Youth Mission Trip-2026

Wallingford, Connecticut, here we come! At the moment, there are 10 youth and 6 adults interested in serving but we still have room for more! This Youth Mission Trip will be held the week of June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The trip is open to youth going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up in September 2026. **Call Jan Decker at 570-629-1890 or email [eumc103@ptd.net](mailto:eumc103@ptd.net) for additional information or to reserve your spot.**

# *Continuing Fellowship/Bible Study Opportunities*

**RightNow Media:** Did you know that we have a place that you can go to on line and seek out a multitude of Bible studies and information? If not, why not check it out. All you have to do is provide the office (or Pastor Scott) with your email address and an invitation to join in and peruse the many studies and information available.

**Advent Evening Bible Study:** A 4 week Bible Study on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30pm entitled: *The Wonder of Christmas* has commenced in the former Day Care Kitchen. Meeting dates are: **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>**. Why not join us?! No sign up required. Remember to bring your Bible.

**Zoom Bible Study on 2 Peter** will begin on **Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30pm**. Kathy Clawges will be leading this study. A sign up sheet can be found on the Welcome Center.

**Lenten Bible Study** will begin on **February 11, 2026**. More information will be forthcoming.

**Basement Bunch:** Basement Bunch Bible Study/Sunday School class meets from 9:45 until 10:30 am in the former Day Care Kitchen area from September until May. Coffee, tea and some sort of goodies are always available. We would love to see a few more people join us. There is a book that we follow that you can read ahead or just look at it once we are in class. Come on out and learn a little bit more about the Bible. Hope to see you there! Please contact Steve Johnson at [sjsa@ptd.net](mailto:sjsa@ptd.net) to register and/or if you have any questions.

**Christian Connection:** A group designed specifically for fellowship and sharing. This group welcomes all to share and to let you know you're not alone. Meetings are on Mondays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and will be held in the Library. Bring a lunch and join them in a relaxed atmosphere of sharing God's love. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsi Bradrick at: [duckharbor21@gmail.com](mailto:duckharbor21@gmail.com)

## **Financially Speaking:**

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued financial support of your church whether it was through the US Mail, EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer), in person, by giving through or Pay Pal.

## **Extra Mile--**

Reminder that Extra Mile Giving (either through your envelopes or EFT) are greatly appreciated. All Extra Mile Giving goes directly to the General Fund for general operating expenses (electric, oil, office supplies, youth education and youth group, etc.) and is in addition to your weekly tithes and offerings. An extra few dollars goes a long way! Please consider going that "extra mile". Contact Finance Chair for any questions—Bob Decker, [bdecker@schiffs.com](mailto:bdecker@schiffs.com)

**2026 Offering Envelopes:** The 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available starting **December 7th**. If you do not have an envelope and would like one, please see Jan in the office. Likewise, if you have been assigned an envelope number and wish to go to EFT, contact Jan so that the number can be reissued. We are trying to be good stewards of our finances. Note: in order to consolidate the actual number of envelopes, some families may have their numbers changed this year. You will receive a notice if this affects you. We are trying to not to “over order” envelopes that may otherwise go to waste.

### **Finance Committee Update—**

With this writing I would like to put our focus on how our giving to the General Fund supports the experience of Passionate Worship. Through worship God restores relationships, forgives our sins, inspires our faith, and ultimately changes lives. Worship is the setting where the believer receives “Justification”, where one realizes he is loved, forgiven and accepted by God. It is the best suited environment for spiritual conversion and a return to a meaningful relationship with the Triune God.

In Psalms 84:2,10 we learn of an eagerness for a relationship with God through worship. “My soul longs, my heart and flesh sing for the joy of the Living God. A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.” Sometimes the message, through passionate worship, is quick and dramatic (really hits home at that specific time); and for others it is a gradual change and spiritual shaping over time. God expects lives to change by regular attendance in worship where we become truer disciples of Christ and the “crowd” truly becomes the Body of Christ.

Every Sunday, through this passionate worship, we receive strength and encouragement and experience the resurrection as our faith is renewed, and we recall that every Sunday is a Little Easter. Can you recall worship experiences that captivated you? Maybe a sermon that really hit home with you, or singing your favorite hymns, or much needed prayers at a specific time in your life, or a youth led holiday celebration, or simply the fellowship felt while worshipping with fellow believers. How has God used worship to mold and shape you?

The General Fund financially supports our passionate worship through the heat and air conditioning in the sanctuary, the salaries of the pastor and organists, electric for lighting and needs of the tech team just to name a few of the expenses. We thank you for your continued support for the financial needs of the Church.

May we be called by God and accept his invitation to follow Him. May we be shaped by the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit. May our Love for Christ change us from just a believer to a True Disciple of Christ.

Thank You and have a Blessed Christmas. Make family memories. May 2026 be a meaningful and memorable year as we celebrate our country’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

God’s continued Blessings and Our continued Praise!  
Bob Decker Finance Chm.



**Food Pantry (SFRC):** Member of Feeding America through Second Harvest Food Bank

The Lord inspired us to help feed families who have need, that are not eligible for local, county or state programs. The program serves the communities of Albrightsville, Blakeslee, Brodheadsville, Effort, Gilbert, Kunkletown, Kresgeville, Saylorsburg and Sciota on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month, from 10:00 am to noon.

The pantry will be open as follows for the month of December 2025: **December 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 from 10 am to noon.**

The pantry will be open as follows for the month of January 2026: **January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon.**

**Volunteers:**

Youth: Must be in high school. If 16-17, must complete volunteer paperwork, but background checks are not required.

Adults: Must complete volunteer paperwork. Must complete state background checks (and Federal checks if not in Pennsylvania for 10 years). Must complete youth protection training. Contact Jan Decker for all volunteer paperwork at: [eumc103@ptd.net](mailto:eumc103@ptd.net) or 570-629-1890 ext. 103.

**Our biggest volunteer need continues to be associated with picking up items from our suppliers. These are often mid-day/mid-week activities and require flexibility with time.**

SFRC is seeking donations for the month of **December:** Holiday dinner items e.g. Canned Vegetables, Pumpkin Mix, stuffing mix, mashed potatoes, gravy, cake mixes, pie crusts. If you have a free turkey or ham\* that you are not in need of and wish to donate, that would be great too. \*Note that hams are preferred.

Items for **January:** Canned Vegetables

**Men's Group:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at 9:00 am in the former Day Care Kitchen area. (There are always snacks and coffee available). Our meetings are normally held on the third Saturday morning of each month. For more information contact Steve Johnson at [sjsa@ptd.net](mailto:sjsa@ptd.net)

**Missions:**

Joyful Noise Offering during worship services for December 2025

<b>December 7</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Salvation Army</b>
<b>December 21</b>	<b>World Service Fund</b>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>EUMC Outreach</b>

Joyful Noise Offering during worship services for January 2026

<b>January 4</b>	<b>Connectional Ministries</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>Youth Campership Pocono Plateau</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>Pastor's Discretionary Fund</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network (PVEN)</b>

**Last day for Olsen Christmas Wish Devotional Sponsorships will be December 7th at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services.**

**Family Christmas Celebration:** The Missions Committee is holding a Family Christmas Celebration on **Saturday, December 6th**. The Children will be portraying the Christmas Story in the Sanctuary. Santa, Rudolph and a few of their winter friends would join in on the celebration in Wesley Hall (after dinner). Christmas carols, music and even some trivia would be included in the event. We would ask that each family bring an unwrapped toy for donation to PVEN for their outreach program (this could be from the Angel tree if you wish). Let us all be Santa Claus this year! We also encourage you to bring at least one non-perishable food item for our SFRC Food Pantry as well. A sign-up sheet for this event and number of attendees will be on the Welcome Center. Just a reminder, seating capacity in Wesley Hall is 125 people....so it is important to let us know quickly of your plans to participate. (Note: if your child will be participating in the program, you must sign them up as well). Should you have questions, please contact Jan Decker in the church office, or by email at [eumc103@ptd.net](mailto:eumc103@ptd.net), or Brenda Mitchell at [eumchrist@ptd.net](mailto:eumchrist@ptd.net).

**UMCOR Cleaning Buckets:** The Mission Committee is sponsoring UMCOR by filling 16 cleaning buckets. Items that are needed are: Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3mm thickness) please *no surgical masks!* 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes), 36-50 Clothes pins, (1) 50-200ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic), 5 scouring pads (no stainless steel or pads with soap in them), 18 re-usable clean wipes (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels), One scrub brush (with or without handle), 40 oz bottles of liquid concentrate household cleaner—please no spray cleaners, 32-64 oz bottles of liquid laundry detergent. There are some buckets in front of the Welcome Center for your donations. Thank you.

**Pastoral Care:** The Pastoral Care team will be mailing out our college students' packages. We will be doing visits with Pastor Scott & Christmas caroling with the Sunday school to nursing homes. We will continue to update our card files.

If you know of someone from our congregation that would like a visit from the Pastoral Care team or Pastor Scott, please contact Dee Juris and she will make arrangements for those who may need a cheerful visit. Dee can be reached at: [deedoloresj24@gmail.com](mailto:deedoloresj24@gmail.com)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** The Prayer Shawl Ministry group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, please join the ladies they would love to welcome you and have you join the group. Contact Joyce Aylsworth 570-643-3334 for more information.

Our next meetings are scheduled for: **Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 16, 2025; and January 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

The ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to extend a gracious and heartfelt “thank you” to all who have donated yarn and/or monetary donations in support of this ministry. We couldn’t do this without you and God’s grace.

**Seekers:** Just come on out and join them on Monday mornings at 10:00 am in Friendship Hall. Current study is “Ten Men of the Bible”.

**Women’s Group of Effort:** The next meeting will be held on **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 pm.** This is our Ladies Night In Dinner. All women 18 and over are invited to attend. We will have a cookie exchange (bring 3 dozen if you would like to participate) and a gift exchange (not more than \$15). Cost of the dinner is \$15 per person. A sign-up sheet with the full menu is on the Welcome Center. Hurry, last day to sign up is **December 1st!**

Devotions will be provided by: Jan Decker

We are always looking for others to join in on the fun with us and to serve as part of a group that supports the church and various mission projects! Our meetings are generally held the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.....come on out... there’s always terrific food!

## *Miscellaneous*

**Space available for rent:** Looking for a comfortable and friendly place to hold your next party, family gathering or meeting? Look no further! EUMC has the perfect areas for such events. Wesley Hall (seats 125) and an outdoor Pavilion available to rent to non-profit organizations. Fees are: \$75 for Church members and \$100 for non-members with an additional \$50 for the Custodian. Contact the church office at 570-629-1890 for availability and additional information.

**Shop Rite and Weis Market Register Tapes:** The church is still collecting the register tapes from Shop Rite (Brodheadsville store only) and Weis Market (from any store). The church receives 1% of each qualified amount. As with all things, there are some guidelines and restrictions. One of which is that ***we cannot submit a tape that is more than one (1) year old.*** So, if you would, please bring your tapes in on a timely basis, that way we won’t lose out on benefits associated with these programs. Also, please note that these are the only register tapes/receipts we are able to apply to these programs. The Shop Rite and Weis register tapes may be dropped off in the box in the Narthex, on the Welcome Center.

**Upper Room Devotionals:** Just a reminder that the Upper Room Devotionals are located in the back of the Narthex. To help offset some of the costs, a donation of \$1.50 for the smaller books and \$1.75 for the large print is requested. Thank you.

**Recycling:** Please be mindful when attending church and church events that we do recycle plastics (including bottles), glass and cardboard and to use the appropriate recycling bins located in both Wesley and Friendship alls. Please *DO NOT* throw in the regular trash or garbage cans. Thank you.



### **December 2025 Birthdays**

12/01 Pat Mackes, John Clawges  
12/03 Glenn Yetter  
12/04 Douglas Tavella, Kiera Jochen, Susan Johnston, Kacie Ernst  
12/05 Michael Hoover, Logan Wasdyke, Riley Wasdyke  
12/06 Dennis George  
12/07 Chace Zamorsky, Lois Kruppa  
12/08 Melissa Roberti, Bill Milburn  
12/09 Karen Brangan  
12/11 Rhonda Sawyer, Cortney Zamorsky  
12/12 Danny Demaio, Stephanie George  
12/14 Jill Yetter  
12/18 Olivia Bonser  
12/19 Carrie Strohl  
12/20 Mason Munz  
12/21 Theresa Mayo  
12/22 Peyton Laxton, Natasha Hoover  
12/25 Happy Birthday Jesus! Jacqueline Audett  
12/27 Wanda Bonser, Pamella Roach  
12/28 Judy Bush  
12/31 Ethan DeMaio

### **2026 January Birthdays**

01/03 Joseph Mitchell  
01/06 Derek Marshall  
01/07 Bella Vaillant  
01/08 Marie Young  
01/09 Erica Gower  
01/13 John Frost  
01/14 Kaimi Butler

01/16 Adele Argot, Julie Foley  
01/17 Dawn Francis, Stephanie Trauger  
01/19 Brenda Davis  
01/22 Pearl Reiss  
01/25 Dawson Borger  
01/26 Lorie Tavella  
01/27 Sheri Seip, Billy Milburn  
01/29 Mertise Wolfe, Gabriel Everett  
01/30 Tonya Haydt  
01/31 Caitlin Pierson-Bonser, Elizabeth Jeker

**Early February 2026**

02/01 Connor Beam  
02/03 Lindsey Possinger, Linda Riddell  
02/05 Ann Sanders  
02/06 Sarah Brecht  
02/07 Cristina Turell  
02/09 Kiaya Daube, Bob Catina

**Card Showers: (send cards and shower them with love)**

Phyllis Conklin, c/o Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home, 302 Kunkletown Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058  
Lucille Smith, 1308 Brian Lane, Effort, PA 18330  
Sue Gellock, c/o Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Drive, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 Room 112 (Jeff Albert's mom)  
Mert & John Wolfe, 3215 Cherry Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058  
Ed & Sarah Brecht, 800 Houseman Road, Apt. 387, Allentown, PA 18104  
Tammy Graeber, 2556 Rising Hill Drive, Saylorsburg, PA 18353  
Ann Sanders, 223 Briarwood Drive, Effort, PA 18330

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