

Dear church family,

Last month in my article I spent time sharing about the role of our session and elders working as the spiritual and administrative leaders of our church. This month I want to spend time sharing about another key group in the life of our church—deacons. **Acts 6:1-7** details the calling of the first deacons in the life of the early church. They were established because the apostles were trying to preach and teach the word of God to the people, but other tasks and needs of the community were maxing out the capacity of leadership. Verse 2 says *“It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait in tables.”* It could seem as though the apostles saw this task as beneath their pay grade, but it was more about staying focused on their call by God to serve, rather than get distracted by other needs that should and could be easily filled by others.

The solution to the story is that seven were called to be deacons, which in Greek means “servant” or “minister.” The Presbyterian Church’s *Book of Order* defines the office of deacon as “one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.”

Our deacons currently serve in three teams. Our care deacons provide phone calls, cards, visits among other things to care for those who are shut in or in need of loving attention. In a similar manner, our health ministry deacons promote healthy living in the congregation, provide meals for those in bereavement or returning from the hospital, and supporting folks via grief pamphlets they send throughout the year following the death of a loved one. Our meal deacons provide funeral luncheons when requested, prepare various fellowship meals and refreshments throughout the year, and organize and maintain our church coffeehouse. There are other small things that these servants do that often go unnoticed. These are the humble servants who often fly under the radar and make a lot of things happen.

As we prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, I’m reminded of the humility exemplified by Jesus, and the way it teaches us to be humble servants in our own ways. Jesus was born in less-than-ideal conditions, and though many heralded his birth with pomp and circumstance, His entrance into the world probably came with less fanfare than it has in the days since. There were also a lot of humble servants who came and bowed at the feet of Jesus and welcomed Him into the world—the shepherd boys, the wise men, as well as Mary and Joseph.

As we reflect on the service of our deacons, and rejoice in the birth of Christ this Advent and Christmas season, I hope and pray we would all find our own humble way to do the Lord’s bidding, no matter how glorifying or menial it may seem. We are all deacons in a way, even if not officially by name. We are servants of King Jesus—who came to serve rather than be served. As we seek to reflect His likeness in our lives, learn to be a humble servant of the Lord in this season of giving.

Bless and be blessed,
-Michael



UPCOMING
Events

<p>Sunday, Dec. 3 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship with communion at 10:30am “The Story” Chapter 13, <i>The King Who Had it All</i>, 1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 5-7, Proverbs 1-6, 20-21</p>	<p>Tuesday, Dec. 19 Bible Study 9:30am Last Tuesday morning Bible Study until January 9, 2024.</p>
<p>Tuesday, Dec. 5 Bible Study 9:30am B&G mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>Sunday, Dec. 24 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am Fourth Sunday in Advent Break from “The Story” Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00pm</p>
<p>Friday, Dec. 8th Children & Youth Christmas Musical dress rehearsal 5:00pm—8:00pm Dinner will be provided for the kids!</p>	<p><i>Pastor Michael off December 26th—January 1</i></p>
<p>Sunday, Dec. 10 Sunday School at 9:30am Autumn Marshall will be leading Sunday School. Worship at 10:30am Children & Youth Christmas Musical Break from “The Story” Meatloaf Dinner after worship</p>	<p>Sunday, Dec. 31 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship with David Goff preaching at 10:30am. Break from “The Story” New Year’s Eve</p>
<p>Tuesday, Dec. 12 Bible Study 9:30am Staff mtg. 11:00am</p>	
<p>Sunday, Dec. 17 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am “The Story” Chapter 14, <i>A Kingdom Torn in Two</i>, 1 Kings, 12-16</p>	

Note: Because we do not have enough recipients to use bulk mail and rising costs to send *The Messenger*, we will no longer be mailing physical copies starting **January 2024**, except for a select group of shut-ins and others who cannot get it via email. We will continue to send it electronically, as well as several paper copies available to pick up during office hours or on Sunday mornings.

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:

Annual committee reports are due to the church office no later than **Wednesday, January 10, 2024**.
Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!


THE DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IS DECEMBER 17th.



Mission Spotlight
December—PACELLA'S
Sal and Terrilyn Pacella



The Pacella's continue to serve as directors of the Bolivia Life Center (BLC) which is a safe home for boys who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. In addition to housing and skill building, the center provides food, healthcare, mentoring, educational support, and a variety of therapies. Sal and Terrylynn strive to provide a normalcy that these boys have never before experienced.

This past summer the Pacella's were able to travel to the United States for a much needed time of rest and reflection and to visit with family. This was their first trip back home in three years.





The DR partnership trip will take place
Feb 24—March 2, 2024.

Please consider joining the group to embark on this adventure and life-changing event! Travel support is available through mission funds. Contact Tina Nesbitt at **(724)730-5904** if you have any questions.





Stewardship & Finance



Stewardship & Finance Offering Envelopes will be available for pick-up in the Narthex on **December 17, 2023.** Please note that all 2023 contributions must be received or Postmarked by **December 31, 2023.** Anything received after that date will be considered a 2024 donation. *Thank you for your generosity to the mission and ministry of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church.*

We will be taking down Christmas decorations on **Sunday, January 7th**, following worship services, and are in need of volunteers to help. There will be light refreshments provided.



Communion will be served on:
Sunday, December 3rd

Thank you

A big thank you to Tom and Debbie Reynolds for their donation of two LifeVac devices should there be a choking incident at the church. They will be located in these areas:

- In the downstairs kitchen of Fellowship Hall.**
- Near the Circle Drive entrance just below the AED.**



Also, we had 9 members of our congregation successfully complete the CPR/AED review course given by Lori Dado, RN. Thank you for volunteering to help in case of need!

Generous Gestures


Our Generous Gestures are coming to an end. Thank you to Clen-Moore, to each and every friend.

We made Valentines, gave chocolate to neighbors, and collected lots of supplies. We put coins in cans, made food and strengthened mission ties.

Generosity will never be done because we have so much to give. Let's continue together in 2024, being generous each day that we live.

*Praise His name for He is a living God.
He was born to save us all.
Merry Christmas & a blessed
Happy New Year!*



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Health Ministry
December

"At some point around this time, most people (especially women) feel overwhelmed by the pressures of the holiday season: decorating, shopping, cooking, and more. This year, in our homes, let's pause to read the story of Jesus's birth from the second chapter of the gospel of Luke. Maybe try it before the opening of gifts—it will help us stay grounded in what matters most: God came to be with us, and for us, in the person of Jesus."
(Taken from Woman's Day, December 2023)

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)



Meatloaf Dinner
Sunday, December 10th
Free Will Offering

Join us for lunch after worship to celebrate the youth on their Annual Musical Production!!!
MENU: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, and Apple Crisp.



Children and Youth Christmas Musical:
"Charlie and the Cherub Cheerleaders"
Sunday, December 10th

The day has come at last! The Son of God is being born on Earth and the angels can't wait to proclaim it to the world. With a wide variety of musical styles, fresh new songs and traditional favorites, our kids have worked hard and are excited to share their love for Jesus—the reason for the season!

Bob Leslie will be turning 100 years old on
January 6, 2024!!

His children would like to invite the congregation to an open house being held at the church on December 30, 2023 from 2–4pm in the parlor. If you cannot attend, please send Bob a birthday card to congratulate him on his milestone birthday. He will be thrilled to get them! The cards may be sent to:

Jim Leslie
807 Briar Edge Court
Lebanon, PA 17046

On the bottom left corner of the envelope, please put "C/O Bob"

