

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church
The Messenger—December 2025

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Dear Church Family,

Over the last several months, we have taken a deep dive into the “Sermon on the Mount” given by Jesus in chapters 5-7 of Matthew’s Gospel. One of the many teachings that comes from the Beatitudes is that anyone, regardless of place in life or condition, has the opportunity to experience the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ -- even when the world might indicate otherwise. The remainder of the sermon illustrates what life in this kingdom looks like and how its subjects live in the law of love for God and one another.

In other words, the Kingdom of God has come near. After the birth narratives and before Jesus begins his earthly ministry, John the Baptist (Jesus' own cousin), proclaims in **Matthew 3:2**: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* Repent means to turn away from one thing and redirect yourself toward another. John teaches to forget what the world has to offer and turn to Jesus. As we all know, this is the way to life. It's also a new WAY of life.

This is why we struggle when we hear that the kingdom is “near”. We think of it as imminent or close. The mistake we often make is thinking that this means it is almost close enough to touch it. Or that it can be seen at some distance. The glory of Christmas is that the presence of the Kingdom, through its king, baby Jesus, is so near to us that it is within us. Though John’s words happen after Jesus’ birth, they remind us the kingdom had come near when Jesus was born.

The birth of Jesus is less about welcoming the kingdom of God to earth than it is about recognizing that we are already in it! Advent, the season of anticipation, helps us hope and dream for this kingdom to come in its most complete and perfect form. It is a helpful time to understand this news, but do not think of it as “waiting” for it to arrive. The kingdom has already come, through the birth of our king Jesus. Come and see, adore, and experience Christ.

Merry Christmas!

-Michael



Monday, December 1st	Michael Off	 <p>Office Hours for this week are: Monday, December 22nd & Tuesday, December 23rd 9:00am—4:00pm Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Closed</p>
Tuesday, December 2nd	Bible Study 9:30am	
Sunday, December 7th	Second Sunday in Advent Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with Communion 10:30am Children's Christmas program rehearsal during worship Children's Church with Christine Spicuzza Cake reception to celebrate John & Nancy Book's 60th Anniversary in the Parlor Blue Christmas at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church at 6:00 pm	
Tuesday, December 9th	Bible Study 9:30am	Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day Sunday, December 28th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am No Children's Church
Thursday, December 11th	Staff Meeting 10:30am Staff Christmas luncheon 11:30am	Michael will be off December 29th through January 5th
Sunday, December 14th	Third Sunday in Advent Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal 9:00am Sunday, School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Christmas program rehearsal during Worship Children's Church with Christina Plyler	<p>Office Hours for this week are: Monday, December 29th & Tuesday, December 30th 9:00am—4:00pm Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Closed</p> <p>LOOKING AHEAD: <u>January 1st</u> <i>New Years Day—Office Closed</i> <u>January 2nd</u> <i>Office Closed</i> <u>January 4th</u> <i>Take down Christmas decorations after worship</i></p>
Monday, December 15th	1-2-1 Christmas dinner at Highland Presbyterian	
Tuesday, December 16th	Bible Study 9:30am (last one until March 2026)	
Friday, December 19th	Dress rehearsal for Children's Christmas program 5:00 pm—7:30 pm Dinner provided for the kids	
Sunday, December 21st	Fourth Sunday in Advent Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship will be the Children's Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall 10:30am "Cookies and Cocoa" reception afterwards	

Deadline for January Is December 16th

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor Michael Spicuzza

Terri Nystrom, Office Administrator

Dr. Jane Karski, Organist

Sally Mescall, Nursery/Pre-K Worker

Charlie Antonelli, Custodian

Gabe Danko, Seminary Intern

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Ruling Elders:

Jen Conrad

Taylor Lubinski

Cindy Lyons

Nancy Natale

Janice McConnell

Christy Litrenta

Bob Turner

Bill Nesbitt

Ed Conti

Sam Plyler

Elinore Snyder

Tom Reynolds

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Deacons:

Amy Ball

John Purdy

Nancy Book

Becky Reese

Shirley Book

Debbie Reynolds

Sandra Bumgardner

Barbara Richards

Evelyn Genkinger

Tom Teleis

Shirlie Hardie

Linda Turner

Dave Kerr

Barbara VanHorn

Brenda Matas

Nancy Wozniak

Elaine Meyers



Christmas Eve Choir

We would like to hear your singing voices at the Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 pm. If you are interested, rehearsals will be Sunday, December 14th and Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 am.



Cookie Donations

We would be most grateful for cookie donations for our “Cookies and Cocoa” reception immediately following the Children’s Christmas program on Sunday, December 21st in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested please contact Sandy Kelty #724-656-1407.

Thank you from the teachers and performers.

Mission Spotlight
December /Pacella’s

Josh (Sal) and Terrilyn Pacella

After being in the United States since June 2024, Josh and Terrilyn Pacella answered a call returning them to Cochabamba, Bolivia to serve at an orphanage for girls. The orphanage “Hijas del Rey” or “Daughters of the King” is smaller than their previous assignment and houses a maximum of 10 girls. Josh and Terrilyn feel they will have opportunities to minister to the girls on a more personal level due to its small size.

The Pacellas share two Prayer Requests.

1. To secure permanent housing for their family. Initially they plan to temporarily live in an apartment provided by a local mission.
2. To enjoy a successful transition back to Bolivia, doing full time service, home schooling 4 children and finding a new rhythm with 5 children.

Josh and Terrilyn remain thankful for the continued prayers and support they receive as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Tips to Destress this Holiday Season

“Many people find that the holidays bring as much stress as they do joy. Here are some ideas to help us cope with the pressures, taken from Dr. Neda Gould, Clinical Psychologist:

Accept imperfection! We are only human and we have to release some of the tensions we place on ourselves to plan a perfect celebration. Don’t lose sight of what really counts—ask yourself if you can find a way to recreate a stressful moment into a pleasant one. For example, look around with fresh eyes and give a compliment or a kind gesture to someone.

Keep in mind that this time of year may be very difficult for someone who is alone. Extend an act of kindness to a person who is without family or friends , or has recently lost a loved one.”

Look for updates concerning a Blue Christmas service which will be helpful to those who have lost a loved one. (This is usually held at the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church.)

Scripture: “And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- the Spirit of truth.” (John 14:16)



Food Pantry/Blessing Box Collection
(Month 8– December2025)



Jello-Box

Variety Pack Oatmeal-Box

Facial Tissues

Toilet Paper

Chocolate Cake Mix

Corn Flakes Cereal

Tea Bags

Toothpaste

Sugar

Flour

Hamburger Helper

Tuna Helper



Youth Group Activities

Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.