

In The Centre

— Monthly Newsletter and Calendar

Centre Presbyterian Church, 83 New Park Rd., New Park, PA 17352
Phone: 717-993-2345 Find us on the web: www.centrechurchpa.org



Pastor Don's Keyboard



Secret Servants

With Covid keeping us close to home, I would like for us to think about how we can celebrate the coming of Christ in new ways. One way is to become **Secret Servants**. Over the years I have heard of people who decided to quietly bless others during the holiday season. Here is what they did and what we can do as well:

1. **Pray about who** to bless.
2. **Decide how many times** you would like to surprise them (like every day for a week, or once a week for four weeks).
3. **Plan out the gifts** you would like to leave or have delivered (notes of encouragement, food, gift cards, handmade gifts, things tailored to the recipient).
4. **Invite others to join you** in carrying this out and encourage them to bless someone new. This can be a fun activity over Advent (November 29 to December 20) or the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 to January 6).

For more ideas, visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-1120-liturgical/>.

Blessed Holy Days to You All!! In Christ,

Pastor Don

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Worship

Tuesdays - Noon Prayer Meetings

1. Join Zoom Meeting from your computer or ipad:
<https://zoom.us/j/104976436>
2. Call in at 1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 104 976 436

Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer.
Join us online or on your phone, wherever you are!



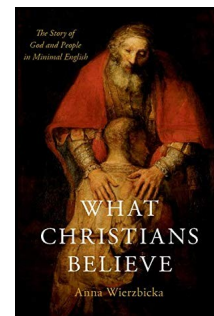
2020 Preaching Series

Our goals this year are to:

- 1) Make the Story of God in Christ understandable to all;
- 2) Equip listeners with the ways to be transformed by the Holy Spirit;
- 3) Enable followers of Jesus Christ share the truth and love of Jesus Christ with others.

Here are the topics for December:

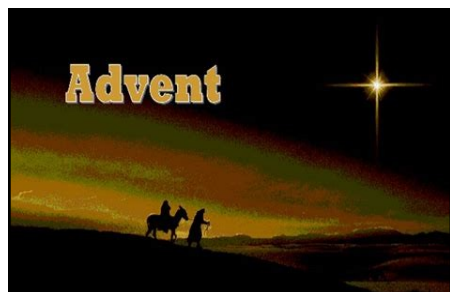
- Dec. 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent-Peace, Guest Minister—Rev. Simeon Harrar
- Dec. 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent-Joy, The Secret Source of Joy, Congregational Meeting
- Dec. 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent-Love, A woman called Mary says “yes” to God
- Dec. 24 (Thursday) - Christmas Eve, Jesus Is Born
- Dec. 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas, Lessons and Carols



Christmas Joy Offering

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>



Listening to God's Good News

- **Family ADVENT devotions**
<https://www.muscadinepress.com/products/family-advent-devotion-free-printable>
- **Daily ADVENT Devotions from Presbyterian Mission**
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/advent-and-christmas-devotional-2020-week-1/>

Recent Baptism

On Sunday, November 8th, we celebrated the sacrament of baptism of Jaramie and Peiton Black. Jaramie is the husband of Carlie Stratmeyer Black, and Peiton is their son who was born on June 6th. Peiton is the grandson of Jeff and June Stratmeyer and great grandson of George and Elaine McLaughlin.



Financial Information

2021 Weekly/Monthly Offering Envelopes—For those of you who use envelopes, your 2021 envelopes will be available for pick up from the left side of the cinder block garage. Any questions – please call Barb Wilson at 717-993-2447.

2020 End of Year Contributions—Because we are not meeting in church, please have offering checks mailed no later than **December 23rd** in order for them to arrive in time to be credited towards 2020. To expedite, you may mail checks directly to Barb Wilson at 15379 Barrens Rd. N, Stewartstown, PA 17363. Thank you.

Leading in Faith

Session Meeting Notes

During the November 17th Session meeting the following items were covered:

- Pastor Don and Norman McElwain reported on the Donegal Presbytery meeting they attended (via Zoom) earlier in the day. They noted that the Presbytery budget for 2021 was approved and that churches in the Presbytery are being encouraged to suspend in-sanctuary services through Lent due to the increase in Covid-19 cases. The Presbytery is producing a "Lessons & Carols" taped service that will be available to churches. It was agreed to utilize that service on Sunday, December 27th.
- Deb Lannon reported that, even though we did not have church in-person for several months, our level of giving is equal to last year, and that many members have given via the electronic funds transfer option provided on our website. Reed Anderson reported that Centre has been named a recipient of a generous monetary gift from the estate of Betty Lou Lowe Tucker.
- A report from the Manse Committee on the status of the repairs was received.
- Kathleen Wilson reported for the Nominating Committee that the slate of officers for 2021 will be: Deacon—Patricia McElwain and Trustee—Robert McElwain. Election of officers will be held following worship on December 13th. More information on how voting will be conducted remotely will be announced.
- Don Wilson and Pastor Don provided an update on the use of the new equipment and software when live-streaming Sunday services. The quality of the broadcast continues to improve.
- Presbytery of Donegal Executor Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes and Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson, met with the Session to review the steps in launching the search for a new minister. It was determined that we would prefer to work toward finding an installed pastor rather than a transitional pastor, and that we would prefer for the new pastor to live in the manse, but that could be negotiable. It was agreed that Pastor Don's involvement in the search process would be welcome and appreciated. The first step will be to conduct a survey to Centre's members and for the Nominating Committee to begin consideration of names of people to be part of the Pastor Nominating Committee (Search Committee).

Trustees' Update

On Wednesday, November 18 Bob Stewart fixed the slate on the church's carriage entrance. He replaced some slates and tightened several more. Later, he will check over the entire church roof for any needed slate work.

On Tuesday, November 18, the Trustees had a work party in the office of the manse. The false ceiling, the original ceiling, and all the paneling were removed. They also removed a large pile of wood and other debris from the basement. A new dehumidifier has been installed in the basement. Thank you to everyone who helped with this not-so-pleasant job.



Don't Miss Centre Worship Services

You don't have to have internet to receive Sunday morning services or be part of the Tuesday Prayer Meeting. From your telephone, landline or mobile, dial the phone number provided. If asked, enter the meeting ID number and you should be good to go. If you are having any problems accessing through the internet or by telephone—please contact Pastor Don, Hugh McPherson, Mary Linkous, or any member of the Session. We want everyone connected while we stay safe.

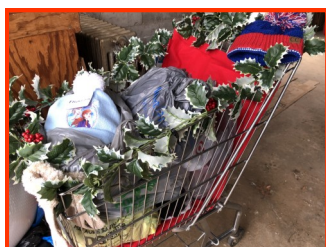


IT guys, Hugh McPherson & Don Wilson manning the equipment for live streaming of our services.

Women of Centre News

CIRCLE MEETING — There will not be a Women of Centre meeting in the month of November. Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, December 8th**, for the Women of Centre Christmas Program. More details about that meeting will be published in the December newsletter and future bulletins.

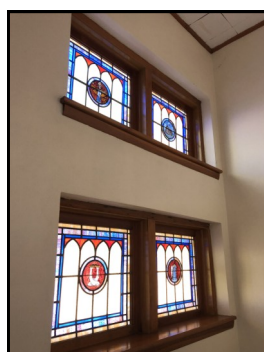
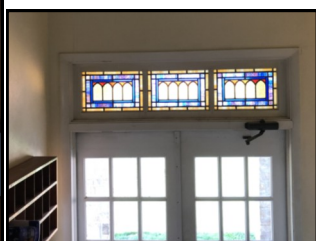
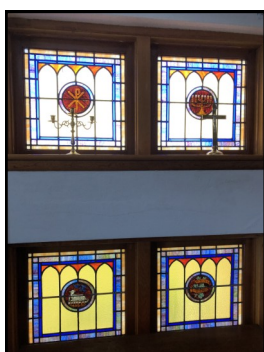
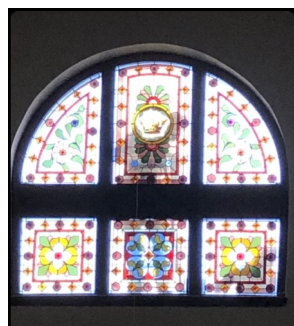
COLLECTION OF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS - Mason-Dixon Community Services is in need of personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste), laundry detergent and diapers that will benefit local families. If you are able to donate one of these or other personal care items, please place them in them in the left side of the cinder block garage until **December 15th**. Thank you!!



MITTEN CART - This winter season the Women of Centre will again support Mason Dixon Community Services by collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. We are collecting these items from **through December 6th**. This will enable the Delta facility to have these items earlier in the winter season and before Christmas. A holiday-decorated shopping cart will be in the left side of the cinder block garage to receive your donations. Thank you for helping to keep both children and adults warm this winter. Any questions— please see Kathleen Wilson.

Construction Update

When the weather allowed, work has continued on placing the new Lexon coverings to protect our stained glass windows. Did you realize that we have a total of **70** stained glass windows?? A recent estimate received (for insurance purposes) states that replacement of our stained glass windows would cost **over \$500,000!!!**



Of our 70 stained glass windows—nine of them are in the front of the Education Building! You walk by them often—but have you ever noticed how beautiful they are? <—— See photos on the left.

Outreach & Mission

Deacons Update



HOLIDAY BASKETS—We are continuing to support Mason Dixon Community Services by collecting food items for holiday baskets. The following items have been requested: Instant mashed potatoes; canned sweet potatoes, canned pineapple, brownie mixes, cake mixes and icing. Your generosity will help our community's families during the holidays. Thank you for anything you can donate! Contact Connie Anderson at 717-891-8132 or Jo Ann Clement at 717-825-7505 to arrange delivery of your items—OR drop them off at the Sunday School office on Tuesday afternoons. We will be collecting these items until **December 13th**.

SAUBELS STAMPS— Your grocery shopping and gathering of stamps from Saubels paid off in a big way!! Centre members collected 193 sheets of stamps—which meant we were able to give 50 plastic storage containers to Mason Dixon Community Services. Thank you!!



Hands Across the Street Mission Opportunity

We will be serving at Hands Across the Street on **Saturday December 12th starting at 10am**. The plan is to help distribute food to those in need. We will meet at the location, 291 South 4th Street, Columbia PA. Please call or text Kristi Wilt at 717-578-8150 if you would like to serve or have any questions. This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship and outreach as we serve others in need.

International Mission Spotlight

From Ryan & Krista Ginn, who are serving as house parents in Cameroon

Our Rain Forest International School started the second quarter on October 26th after a brief one-week break following the first quarter. We are back to a "normal" five-day school schedule for this quarter. It is good to have a more consistent routine, although it has been a struggle for the kids to adjust back to getting up early Monday through Friday. We are thankful that this change could take place as we expected to be in the hybrid system until the second semester. We are also grateful as many parts of the world including parts of Cameroon have not been able to begin their school year on a campus yet. *Photo: The hostel kids have led worship a few times for the backyard church service*



Praises:

- All the students are back to full time on campus for classes
- Covid cases in Cameroon are not rising

Prayer:

- For the students as they adjust to the new school schedule
- For a calming of the unrest in the northwest and southwest of Cameroon
- That the virus will stop spreading around the world

Ways to Support Our Missionaries:

- **Pray** - Safe travel and good relationships as our missionaries teach, train leaders, and serve the practical needs of those in their communities.
- **Give** - To our Benevolence Fund to support our six missionaries

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200383/>

Celebrations

Happy December Birthday!!

- 1—Sarah McPherson
- 1—Ralph Travis
- 2—Travis Moore
- 3—Gail McElwain
- 3—Jennifer Pavey
- 4—Lucas Gemmill
- 5—Patrick Lannon
- 6—Karen Marsteller
- 8—Kyle Gemmill
- 8—Samantha Huber
- 8—Linda Neal
- 9—Julie Schrum
- 11—Lee Manifold
- 12—Andrea Kurtz

- 12—Joyce Scott
- 13—Anna Clements
- 13—Donald Yost
- 15—Kenny Moore
- 16—Derek Marsteller
- 20—Kathy Barshinger
- 20—Wayne McGinnis
- 24—Bruce Marsteller
- 25—Shane Marsteller
- 27—Wiley Wilt
- 28—Jody Leighty
- 28—Noa Schneider
- 31—Millard Neale



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Happy December Anniversary!!

- 16—Jim & Karen Marsteller
- 24—Ben & Bobbie Lowe
- 24—John & Mescal Wiley
- 28—Jeff & Sherry Fitch

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Daniel and Caitlin Lannon on the birth of Olive Katalina Lannon. on November 4th. She is welcomed into this world by proud grandparents, Mike and Debra Lannon.



Active Military??

Please notify Pastor Don if you or someone in your family is actively serving in the military so that we may add them to our Prayer List. Thank you.

December Assignments

Trustee of the Month - Mort Baker 410-322-2879

December 2020

“Centre is a Christ-centered, community focused, fully alive church that grows as it serves”.

**December 13th—
Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers - via Zoom. Voting Instructions Will be Announced.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online	2	3	4	5
6 11:00—Worship Online	7	8 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 7:00—Trustees’ Meeting	9	10	11	12 10:00—Hands Across the Street—Columbia, PA
13 11:00—Worship Online 12:00—Congregational Meeting—election of officers	14 January Newsletter Items Due	15 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 7:00—Session Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 11:00—Worship - Online	21	22 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service On-line	25 Christmas!! Rejoice!! Praise God for His Gracious Gift!!	26
27 Advent Sunday 11:00—Worship Online	30					

Name	Cell Phone	Email
Pastor Don Hackett	717-203-1018	pastordonhackett@gmail.com
Sun. School Betsy McPherson	717-487-8072	betz721@gmail.com
Secretary Mary Linkous	410-382-6166	mmlink@zoominternet.net
Youth Joy Chester	410-458-5712	joyatcentre@gmail.com

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Centre Presbyterian Church

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New Park, PA 17352

Calling a Pastor

With the retirement of Pastor Don Hackett set to begin in July, 2021, our pastoral search process has begun. Here is what has been accomplished thus far and our steps to come:

Steps in the Pastoral Search Process

Session Responsibilities

- In Oct. 2020, Session approved the retirement of Pastor Hackett to commence on July 1, 2021.
- In Nov. 2020, the Donegal Presbytery Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk visited Session to review the steps of the call process.
- In Nov. 2020, our Session voted to begin the process to search for a full time, installed pastor.
- In Dec. 2020, our Session will conduct a survey of our members to help determine the future direction of our church mission and leadership.
- In Dec. 2020, our Personnel Committee and Treasurer will prepare a financial review, pastor position description, pastor search budget, compensation package range, and other documents for Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) review and approval.
- The Nominating Committee will seek recommendations for the Pastor Nominating Committee to present to the congregation for approval in early 2021.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

- Presbytery will coach the PNC in how to proceed.
- PNC will prepare a Ministry Information Form (MIF) to be approved by Session and COM.
- PNC will advertise the position, receive resumes, interview candidates, select a candidate for vote, and present the terms of call to Session for approval.
- The candidate will be introduced to the congregation in various ways.
- A congregational meeting will be held to meet and approve the candidate.
- PNC will oversee the welcome and ongoing support of the approved candidate.

Please be praying for wisdom as we discern our direction and leadership for the future. We need you to **participate in the congregational survey** that will be coming soon!

