



HOLMES HERALD

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PO BOX 117, HOLMES, PA 19043

Pulpit Supply: Dr. J. William Carpenter

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Treasurer: Angelo LoCastro

Organist; Choir Director: Mark Kalbach

Youth Director: Rebecca Kalbach

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Please join us on
Sunday mornings for...

Adult Forum : 9:15 AM
Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM



January 2025

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2025 offering envelopes are available. Please pick up your envelopes from your narthex mailslot. If you currently do not have church envelopes and would like some, please contact Ed Taylor or the church office.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2024

Contribution statements for 2024 will be available in narthex mailboxes on January 12th and sent out in the mail on Jan 13th. Please review your statement carefully and contact Carol LoCastro or the office prior to January 31 if adjustments need to be made. After January 31st, new numbers will be entered into the system for the 2025 year.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2024



The Presbytery asks us to hold an annual meeting with the congregation to report on the stewardship and scope of our ministry for the prior year. During this meeting, The Nominating Committee and

Auditor for the year are elected. **The meeting is scheduled for February 2nd immediately following worship.** We value your presence at this important meeting. **YOU ARE HOLMES CHURCH!!!**

Holmes Church: 2024 Reflections/2025 Aspirations



It is hard to believe that we are already in the New Year of 2025! Holmes Church accomplished so much in the calendar year of 2024. Let's celebrate our accomplishments as we reflect back on last year. Here are some highlights:

*New boiler/new roof

*Tremendous community turnout for events like: Easter Egg Hunt, Compassion Flower Sale, Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat, Painting Without a Twist, Annual Soup Luncheon.

*Community Outreach through our Vegetable Garden Harvests, Blessings Box, Free Clothes Giveaway, Sewing Circle Baby Hats, Bibs, and Blankets, The ÔHat, Glove & SockÓ Giveaway to James R. Ludlow School in Philadelphia, Deacon's Thanksgiving Food Drive, Christmas Gift Drive for the Mother's Home in Darby, School Supply Collection/School Bag Project.

*Special worship events/programs: Mission Service Sunday (Christmas Baskets), Christmas Music Worship, Christmas Eve Service, Thanksgiving Eve Service, Good Friday Service, Maunday Thursday Service, Easter Service, Memorial Day Service, Friendsgiving, Hanging of the Greens.

*Christian Education programs: VBS, Kidstuff, Crew 123, Youth Group, Men's Bible Study, Sunday School.

*Over the Hill Gang (OTHG)-met 52 times and completed dozens of projects. Two projects were dealing with the overgrowth of weeds on the lawn and replacing burnt fluorescent tubes with LED replacements. In 2025, the OTHG will continue these projects and move to re-glazing the windows in the Christian Ed Wing. The group was and is much appreciative that Gene Zimmerman joined the group. We are thankful and grateful for all the work the OTHG does to help save Holmes Church in repair work expenses.

As a church, we are small - but we are mighty! Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We at Holmes Church continually strive to serve God and our community. This February we will celebrate 118 years as a church in the Holmes Community! Praise the Lord! As a Session, we pray that God will bless our efforts as a church as we try to reach the community and increase our attendance in the 2025 calendar year. We are noticing a greater appreciation for our place in the community by increased attendance and participation at church community events. We are hearing many positive comments as we receive many compliments on our church's generosity.

Thank you to all our friends and members of Holmes Church for your support, attendance, participation, prayers, and vision as we hopefully will serve God and the surrounding community for many years to come!

With Gratitude,
The Holmes Session

Ed and Lisa Taylor, Bob and Dyan White, Suzi Waldie, Elaine Van Geyten, Lynn Krauthiem, Angelo LoCastro, Mark and Becky Kalbach



Every year we are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling at Christmas, to share what we have because God has blessed us. This year, the Deacons adopted the women at Mother's Home. As always, the generosity of the congregation overflowed and resulted in a van full of items for both mother and baby. The Deacons wish to thank everyone who participated in their Christmas Outreach Program. Thank you for showing God's love during their time of need!



Many thanks to the Monday morning men for their hard work in 2024. These hard working servants of God faithfully meet to repair and replace items which are broken often. Their service includes, but is not limited to, setting up and breaking down tables, helping to clean up after church events, cleaning out closets, painting, and dealing with various mechanical and plumbing failures.

These men work behind the scenes to make sure we have heat in the winter, air conditioning in the summer, and constantly replace bulbs so that the church is well lit and safe. They also schedule and meet with contractors to fix the issues they can't.

We are extremely grateful for the knowledge, skill and dedication of these men and thank them for their tireless efforts!



Many thanks to Debbie Oliver for overseeing the ordering, pickup and placement of poinsettias over Christmas. It is a big undertaking with the many flower orders we receive to honor/memorize our loved ones.

WELL DONE,
 —GOOD—
 AND
 faithful
 SERVANT.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 2023



The Deacons wish to thank everyone for their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. Your generosity will certainly add joy to the lives of others.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

2 Sue Mulhern



Loaves and Fishes update

From July 2023 to June 2024 Loaves & Fishes served 4,100 families in the Ridley/Interboro School district. Thank you to the many people who support this food bank and to Elaine VanGeyten who oversees the church garden and the distribution of vegetables to Loaves & Fishes.



The following people have been elected and will be installed in worship on January 12th:

Elder: Mark Kalbach, Lynn

Krautheim, Ed Taylor

Deacons: Debbie Lucas, Leeann McCullough, Helen Pilgrene, Peggy Walter

On a bleak mid-December mid-day (no it was not cold and, yes, it was raining) the Monday morning fixit crew (a.k.a. "the over the hill gang") were luncheon guests at Debbie and Joe Lucas' home in appreciation for the important work they do every week! Was it a delicious meal? Now, what do you think? Did they behave themselves? Well, what do you think? Did they leave like stuffed turkeys? Hummm! What do you think? Did they appreciate the gift? You know the answer!!!! Thank you Debbie and Joe!



Hat, Glove, Sock Project for
James R. Ludlow School in Philadelphia, Pa



Due to the generosity of the friends and members of Holmes Church, close to 100 students in grades K-2 at James R. Ludlow Elementary School were able to get a hat,

pairs of gloves, and socks to help them stay warm this Winter, (with extras to spare). The students were so excited to pick at their hats, gloves, and socks the day before Christmas break. They couldn't wait to show their parents. James R. Ludlow is a Title I school.

Title I schools are schools that receive federal funding to help children from low-income families meet state standards in reading, language arts, and math. Title I is a program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that aims to close educational achievement gaps.

Thank you cards and letters have been posted in the church Narthex from some classes. I asked one particular girl named Aubree from my 2nd grade class as to which hat socks, and gloves she would like to pick out. Here was her response and I quote, "Mrs. Kalbach I really don't mind which pair of gloves, socks, or hat I need to pick out because I'm just thankful to have them to keep me warm."

Thank you ever so much Holmes Church for your caring and kindness. You made many little friends at our school happy and warm!

With Love,
Becky Kalbach

Something special will be happening the weekend of February 14-16, 2025, here at Holmes Presbyterian Church. Several years ago, I began writing and choreographing a unique Children's Theater piece centered around the parable of the "Good Samaritan" and the children's story of "The Elves and The Shoemaker." As it came together, I asked Mark Kalbach if he would be interested in composing the score, and happily, he agreed. I began casting and designing a set, planning out costumes, etc. and at last we were ready to begin rehearsing. As many of you know, I became ill, diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, and everything came to a halt. Now, six years later, it is time to introduce our creation. Entitled, "SHOES", we have planned three performances for the Friday, February 14 thru Saturday the 15th, with Sunday, the 16th, on reserve in case of snow. While technically this is a children's story, the production is perfect for all ages, and a true testament to the Christian values of faith, hope and love.



Please do try to attend and share this labor of love with us. Ticket information and performance times will be announced shortly.

SIDE NOTE: Those of you who are familiar with the world of theater will appreciate the "back stage drama" that plagues every production. Unfortunately, we need to replace a couple of cast members who found it necessary to drop out of our production.. The roles are not speaking parts, but are necessary cast members. If you think you can help us out, or trust that I know what I am doing as a director, please see me ASAP. If possible, I would like to have a full cast by January 11th. Ideally, I am looking for one adult female, and one adult male. suziwaldie3@gmail.com

Thank You!



Thank you to all the friends and members of Holmes Church who helped decorate our church at the Hanging of the Greens, filled and help place 150 + luminaries out on Christmas Eve, donated and assembled fruit baskets for our shut-ins and community partners, participated in and/or attended our Christmas

Worship and Christmas Eve Programs. Thank you to Debbie Oliver who so beautifully arranged the poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. They were just gorgeous this year! Thank you to Dyan White for creating our lovely Christmas Eve program involving the Nativity Scene. To Mark Kalbach for all his hard work during the Advent Season, particularly the Music Worship Service. To Amanda Taylor for co-planning the Painting without A Twist, such a fun night! I am also thankful to the Chancel Choir and Memorial Bell Choir for their hard work and dedication to help make our worship services special during the Advent/Christmas Season. To the Deacons for hosting a lovely Christmas Tea after the Music Worship program.

As you can see, the Advent/ Christmas Season takes a lot of time, planning, and preparation. A huge heart-felt thank you to the many people who made this Christmas Season at Holmes Church extra-special.

Becky Kalbach
Worship Chair

YOUTH NEWS



January sees our group back together after Christmas Break. We are continuing to discuss the fundamentals of our Christian faith during our Bible Talk. The youth have also discussed with us how prevalent vaping has become in our public schools, so we have been warning the youth as to what this practice can lead to particularly harming our bodies. We look ahead to our Soup Luncheon in February, with more details coming in the near future. Thank you for upholding our youth in prayer and for supporting this program.

In Christ,
Mark and Becky



JANUARY

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 2024</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2025</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Support Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>		
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