

Dear NBEPC Family:

A very Merry Christmas to all of you! As all of us make the transition this time of year to Christmas hustle and bustle, I want to report to you that the transitional process in my role as Transitional Pastor continues to move along. At the congregational meeting of November 27, you approved a slate for the Pastor Search Team. Those members which you voted unanimously for are Steve Fox, Christian Fulkman, Gary Geisinger, Geniene Jones, Lori Smith, and Erika Taylor.

Their first step will be to receive training and orientation from a member of the Ministerial Committee of our presbytery. I have been in contact with Pastor Eric Toohey, the chair of the committee who will designate to me an individual from the committee to provide that training. Following that, it is expected initially that the Pastor Search Team will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. I would anticipate that some time in probably the second month or third month of the new year, the team will have done the suggested work that will enable them to place the "Church Information Form" (a kind of "church resume" that includes the Church Life and Ministry Vision") onto the EPC national website. It is then they will receive applications from individuals for the permanent pastor position.

In the meantime, I am pleased to share with you an Advent sermon series called, "The Song Remains the Same." This series will look at the songs contained in the gospel of Luke that were written in and around the birth of Jesus.

As I write this, there is much excitement here at New Bedford as the church gets ready to host Breakfast in Bethlehem on December 10 and take part in an outstanding evening of celebration and fellowship on Sunday, December 11. Called, "Carols, Cookies & Cakes, Oh My" I hope you will make this wonderful event a part of your Advent.

And please don't forget to invite friends and family to our Christmas Eve celebration which will feature wonderful music and an evening sermon theme called "It's a Wonderful Life."

It's a busy but blessed time of year. But Connie and I are blessed to be with you as we all share the excitement together.

Once again, Merry Christmas!

Pastor Dan and Connie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 17, 2022

- Approved the 2023 Church Budget
- Approved the 2023 Mission Budget
- The congregation voted to approve the slate of nominees for the Pastor Search Team during the Nov. 27 Congregational Meeting.
- Session passed a motion to change the start time of the second worship service to 10:30 a.m. (previously 10:40 a.m.) starting on January 1, 2023. Sunday School will run from 9:30 – 10:20 a.m.
- The church will contract with Gordon Bros. to replace the broken water softener.
- A professional cleaning service, Kelly's Cleaning Service, has been contracted for an initial deep clean and ongoing weekly cleaning.
- Legal papers have been signed to change the church name to New Bedford Evangelical Presbyterian Church on official documents.
- Administration committee will have someone grind the arborvitae stumps in front of the manse.
- Noted that a mouse problem in the kitchen requires better securing of food.
- The Thankoffering will go to the Cabwaylingo mission in West Virginia.
- Session is considering making a purchase offer on property adjacent to the church grounds and has approved an offer amount.
- Breakfast in Bethlehem takes place on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.
- Carols, Cookies, and Cakes, Oh My!, a Christmas music program with desserts will take place on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 27, 2022

- Approved the election of Elders, Deacons and the 2022 Nominating Committee

Elders

- Dan Dieter
- Steve Fox
- Gary Fulkman

Deacons

- Evelyn Exley
- Nancy Cummings
- Paul Cummings
- Edie Daugherty
- Geniene Jones (1 year)

2022 Nominating Committee

- Florence Allison
- Bob Bell
- Martha Miller
- Received the 2023 Church budget

Birthdays in December

12/01 – Adam Marshall
12/02 – Diana Halt
12/03 – Titus Marshall
12/05 – Betty Komar
12/07 – Kyle Jones
12/09 – Chuck Bell
12/09 – Bob Bell

12/09 – Alexis Jones
12/11 – Caroletta Doverspike
12/13 – Grace Fenati
12/14 – Evelyn Exley
12/16 – Wanda Boyles
12/16 – Hannah O'Brien
12/17 – Angela Houk

12/17 – Addie Moore
12/19 – Rebecca Halt
12/20 – Eric Keller
12/21 – Ruth Hunt
12/21 – Lavon Rogers
12/24 – Florence Allison
12/28 – Darlene Robison

Birthdays in January

01/01 – Jakki Gardner
01/03 – Bud Freeman
01/04 – Olivia Eppinger
01/04 – Corigan Quinn
01/05 – Lois Adams
01/05 – Phillip Book
01/05 – Edie Dougherty
01/05 – Ashley Fox
01/05 – Shirley Janoski
01/05 – Jacob Taylor

01/06 – Nancy Bretz
01/06 – Joel Phillips
01/09 – Brenda Miller
01/11 – Marshall Whiting
01/12 – Linda Feil
01/12 – Diane McConnell
01/14 – Gary Geisinger
01/14 – Allen Jones
01/17 – Terri Quinn
01/19 – Rosie Moore

01/19 – Willie Moore
01/20 – Amanda Miller
01/24 – Lori Smith
01/24 – Bennett Whiting
01/26 – Mackenzie McCarthy
01/26 – Julie Whiting
01/27 – Joyce Goist
01/27 – Morgan Whiting
01/28 – Taylor Allison



Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.



Lavon Rogers-----John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence-----Shenango Home
Nancy Phillis-----Home
Erma Gorley-----Nugent's Nursing Home
Renee Persky-----Home
Gene Bicehouse-----Garden Way Place



BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM will be on Saturday, December 10th . Please invite your friends and neighbors. This event is **FUN** for children and adults of all ages! Breakfast will be served until 10:00AM. If you have never come, please try to come this year! The church is transformed into the streets of Bethlehem. There are live animals for petting, a Christmas movie, two craft rooms, face painting, and much more!



Carols, Cookies & Cakes, Oh My!



An evening of Christmas music and more.

What is your family's favorite Christmas time dessert? Your specialty?

Bring it to share with your church family.

December 11 at 6pm

Worship Team

Hand Bell
Choir

Instrumentalists

Children's
Choir

Men's Chorus

Choir



The Deacons will be collecting non-perishable food items for boxes to be given to those with a need at Christmas. There is a box in the narthex until December 11 for you to place your donations. The Deacons will be meeting on Saturday, December 17th at 9:00A.M. to pack Christmas boxes. If you are a Deacon, please come to the church on this morning to help pack and distribute.

If you know of anyone in the church who turned 80 years young this year, please let Helen Ruby know so the Deacons can prepare a fruit tray for them for Christmas.

The Deacons would like to **THANK** everyone that helped them prepare delicious meals throughout the year for Pastor Dan & Connie and anyone else in our congregation that was in need of meals. Your generosity in preparing and delivering these meals is so much appreciated!!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – The Christmas Offering collection for 2022 will be directed to Samaritan's Purse in support of Hurricane relief in Florida and Flooding assistance in Kentucky. Both areas were hit hard during 2022 and we appreciate your support. There will be special offering envelopes in your bulletins on 12/11, 12/18 and 12/25.



ANGEL TREE: Once again this year we have the opportunity to help local families with Christmas gifts. If you would like to help with this mission, please take an Angel Tag from the tree in the entryway, and please mark on the paper your name and what number your tag is so that we can make sure that all tags are accounted for. Please return the wrapped gift with the Angel Tag attached no later than Wednesday, December 14th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: On Saturday, December 24th at 7:00P.M., please plan on joining us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service. There will be Christmas Carols, music from our amazing Choir and a Message of Hope and Joy.

IMPORTANT: There will be a combined Worship Service on Sunday, December 25th at 10:40A.M. There will NOT be an 8:30 service or Sunday School on this day.

The Shenango Valley Chorale, under the direction of Stephen Barr, and the Shenango Area Youth Chorus, under the direction of Julie Freeman Kerr, will present a combined Christmas Concert on December 9 and 10, 2022 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, 600 East State Street. The concert will also include a performance by the Chorale's Madrigal Singers; and will feature the American Premier of a British work for choir and Celtic harp. Tickets for each concert are available at the door. Tickets for Adults and Students 13+ are \$15. Children 12 and under have free admission. Jim and Julie Freeman Kerr, and Jim and Pam Maloney are members of the Chorale.

The Church Office will be open the week before Christmas on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, the office will be closed beginning 12/23 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd . Please have all information and/or announcements for the 12/24, 12/25 and 1/1 bulletins submitted by TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20th. The staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

OFFICER TRAINING 2022 – On Saturday, January 7th from 9:00A.M. until NOON. All Officers, Elders and Deacons, returning and new, are encouraged to attend this training. This training is required by our Book of Order and is also a great time of fellowship and for making goals for the upcoming year.

IMPORTANT - Annual Reports: All committee and board secretaries or chairmen should start thinking about getting their Annual Reports ready to be turned in. ALL REPORTS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 to be included in the 2022 Annual Report. There is a folder on my desk or you can email your reports to me at newbedfordepchurch@gmail.com or addietwinstrips@gmail.com Thank You!! Addie

****There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023 during the Sunday School hour at 9:30. The purpose of this meeting is for reviewing the Annual Report.**



Regular Club Night - Wednesdays 5:00-7:00
Ages 2 - Grade 6

Awana is in 'full swing'....it is such a blessing to be in the hustle and bustle of this ministry and to see children learning about Almighty God! Please lift the faithful servants in prayer as they serve the children of our church and community. There is still a need a need for substitutes and also adults to assist in game time from 5:50-6:25 and Bible memorization from 6:25-6:55. Please see Dawn if you have any questions on what the responsibilities are for these positions. *Prayerfully consider being a life changer at Awana.* You are welcome to stop in and visit any Wednesday evening, 5:00-7:00.

******UPCOMING CLUB NIGHTS******

December 7th - Double Double Points Night

December 14th - Red/Green Night!

Wear the Christmas Colors...Red or Green.....or both colors!!

December 21st - Children's Christmas Program at 5:30 PM followed by dinner.

Children participating in the program should be here by 5:15.

Christmas Program practices:

Saturday, December 10th at 11:30-12:30

Saturday, December 17th at 9:30-10:30

December 28th & Jan. 4th-NO Awana Club -Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Awana Club will resume on JANUARY 11th - Pajama Night

Inclement Weather Notification



Awana does not always follow Wilmington Area School District closing schedule. A decision will be made *by 3:00 on Wednesday* if Awana will be cancelled for the evening. I will send email to the email address that was given on the registration form. Leaders will receive a text message.



Children's Christmas Play

All are invited to

join us as we celebrate "Christmas by The Book"

Wednesday, December 21st at 5:30 PM

Following the play a dinner will be provided:

Pizza, Salad, & Drink

If you are able to provide dessert, sign up on Sunday.



Youth Group:

Our last two regular meetings of the year will be December 11th & 18th. The first meeting after the Holiday break will be January 8th.



Pint cards are here!

They can be picked up in the vestibule on Sunday December 11 & 18. Thank you for supporting

the youth!!

E.P.I.C.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 15. Bible study starts at 11am followed by lunch at noon. Please Join us as we continue our study of "The Lord's Prayer". Please consider joining us in the new year! We will be meeting January 5th & 19th.



**NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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Phone: 724-964-8055

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #147
New Castle, PA 16101



**Redeeming Times Newsletter
DECEMBER 2022**

Church website: www.newbedfordchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



O Holy Night

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!
Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

**Join us Christmas Eve at 7PM for our
Candlelight Worship Service!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**