



# JANUARY NEWS

PENDLETON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Digital Edition*

## **Intergenerational Angel Wings Missions**

Saturday, January 13, 12:00-3:00 PM

## **Winter Youth Retreat**

February 16-18

## **Worship**

Saturday at 5:00 PM & Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

*Live streamed at 9:00 on [pendletonchurch.org](https://pendletonchurch.org)*

*Jr. Church (3 years - 6th grade) offered at 9:00 AM*



### **Website**

[pendletonchurch.org](https://pendletonchurch.org)



### **Phone**

716-625-8306



### **Facebook**

[pendletoncenterumc](https://www.facebook.com/pendletoncenterumc)



### **Email**

[theoffice@pcumc.org](mailto:theoffice@pcumc.org)

### **Pastoral Emergencies**

*After office hours*

716-291-7529



### **Instagram**

[@pendletoncenterumc](https://www.instagram.com/pendletoncenterumc)

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**Website**

pendletonchurch.org



***Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***

***Matthew 20:25-28***

We’re now on the other side of Christmas. Depending on when you read this, Epiphany may have passed, and the season will be officially over. So now what? Part of why the season means so much to many of us is because it passes so quickly (even if you can find candy canes and decorations at stores in August). Our awe and wonder at Almighty and sovereign God coming into our world to save us because He loves us shouldn’t just go back into storage bins for the next eleven months. What will we do with what we learned and felt this Christmas season?

How does God factor into your plans for 2024? While few of us turn a physical page on a calendar anymore, the start of the new year still inspires most of us with a sense of fresh opportunity. As you’ve heard, we’re starting some groups to help people take the next step in their faith journey. We’ll discuss how to better understand the Bible, deepen your prayer life, and discern your gifts and call.

I say all of this about the lessons of Christmas and the opportunity that the new year brings to invite you to consider whether God might be calling you to something new. The scripture above reminds us that Jesus teaches us that the heart of loving is serving. It misses the point of Christmas to remember how God showed us love and not do anything about it. We might waste the gift of a new year by failing to dream and falling into the same patterns. Love has to be put into action.

This month, we will celebrate the ministry of all Christians at church during the coffee hours on January 20 and 21. Our ministry fair provides a chance to learn more about how you can serve with others in our congregation. There are opportunities to be in ministry with homeless people, prisoners, and others across all age groups. You might feel called to serve in an administrative role, such as our finance or building ministries. It will also be a wonderful way to meet other people in the church and strengthen relationships. Use this opportunity to see where God might be calling you.

Many Christmas stories end with a message that says we should keep the Spirit of Christmas all year long. As you think about how Jesus came into your world in a new way this Christmas, listen to him calling you to follow Him. Saying yes to Him might create your best year yet.

*Pastor Scott*



## United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will take a winter break until Thursday, March 7. That being said, I have some big shoes to fill after 15 years of loyal leadership from Naomi Laskey. Thanks so much for all she has done over the years. She can now take a break and just come and enjoy the meetings with us.

If you, too, want to join this group, we meet at a new time, 12:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall on the 1st Thursday of each month. Bring a sandwich, and we will provide the dessert, drink, and fellowship.

March hostesses will be Kathy Hill and Naomi Laskey.

May you all have a safe and blessed holiday season.

In God's Service,  
*Connie Clifford*

## Women's Book Club

**Wednesday, January 17 at the Country Cottage at Beach Ridge & Townline Rd.**

Join us for dinner and a discussion about this month's book, *All the Ugly and Wonderful Things* by Bryn Greenwood. If you want to join the book club or have any questions, let Yvonne Bova know. All women are welcome!



## IT'S ALMOST FISH FRY TIME!

**Can you believe it? Our first Lenten Fish Fry is in just six weeks!**

*The first one is on Friday, February 16.*

**They've been getting bigger and bigger, so we need more help than ever!**

*So, if you haven't been able to help or don't know where to start,  
we need to know what's holding you back.*

Preparations start Thursday and continue through Friday evening,  
so it's not just Friday at dinner that we need help.

You don't have to commit for all the weeks. Join us when you can make it!

**And we need all kinds of talents,**

like help contacting people just to coordinate all that goes on.

Please text, call, or catch me at church if you have questions.

Praise God for all He does for us!

Louie Bobsein

## GENESIS MINISTRIES



## GENESIS Preschool



The time to sign up for 2024-2025 Preschool classes is coming soon! Registration will be open to members of our church and current Preschool families on February 15. On March 1, registration will be open to the community.

Classes available are:

- **Tues/Thurs Class for 3-year-olds** – Morning and Afternoon Sessions
- **Mon/Wed/Fri Class for 4-year-olds** – Morning Session
- **Mon – Fri Class for 4-year-olds** – Morning Session
- **Genesis Afternoon Adventure Program for 4-year-olds** – Mon/Wed/Fri Afternoon Session

Space is limited and classes fill up quickly. Be sure to register your child early for the class of your choice. If you would like information about our Preschool, please call the office. We have a phenomenal staff and curriculum that includes kindergarten readiness skills, basic Christian concepts, music, arts & crafts, field trips, and much more.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Preschool Christmas programs. The children were wonderful & enjoyed sharing the news of the birth of Jesus.

## GENESIS Mom's Morning Out

Registration for this program for the fall of 2024 will begin in May. If you are interested in receiving registration materials for this program, please contact Heather Miner in the office.



For more information about Genesis Ministries,  
please call our office at 716-625-8306 or email  
Heather Miner.



Happy New Year, Pendleton Center Church families! We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a fantastic start to the New Year with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing what this new year holds for our children and youth as we continue to do great things through each of these ministries.

God bless, *Adrienne Demmin*

For more info or to join one of our children & youth ministries programs, contact [Adrienne Demmin](#) or call 716-625-8306.



Jr. Church (9 AM service only) is a fun, interactive, and safe place where kids (3 years - 6th grade) can worship God and engage in their very own relationship with Him. Children can be dropped off in the Ark before worship and will stay through the entire service.

In December, we finished up our Heroes of the Nativity series. In this series, we looked at different characters of the nativity story each week, the story they have to share with us, and how they weren't alone in their journeys, and neither are we. God was with them every step of the way, showing His love, guiding them, and turning their faith into miraculous experiences. This curriculum taught us that when we trust God, we too can discover joy, love, and miracles in our everyday lives.

#### **Shepherds: Humble Witnesses to the Glory of God (Luke 2:8-20)**

Just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen. The shepherds were ordinary people doing their job when they heard the incredible news of Jesus' birth. This shows us that even in our ordinary lives, God can do extraordinary things. When we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.

#### **Wise Men: Earnest Seekers of the Divine Promise Matthew 2:1-12)**

The Wise Men were guided by God as they earnestly sought the newborn king. Their story teaches us that when we genuinely search for God in our lives and ask Him to guide our steps, He will lead us right to Him. It's through this earnest seeking that we can experience the love of Jesus, and when we find Him, like the Wise Men, we will be filled with joy.

#### **Joseph: Steadfast Obedience in the Midst of Uncertainty (Matthew 1:18-24, Matthew 2:13-15)**

Joseph's story shows us that God supports those who obey Him, even when it's challenging or doesn't make sense. Joseph trusted God's plan and followed His instructions, which led to him being a crucial part of Jesus' story. Similarly, when we obey God, we're saying we trust Him. It's through this trust that we can experience the love of Jesus and find joy, even in uncertain times.

#### **Mary: Trusting God in the Midst of the Miraculous (Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:19)**

Mary was just an ordinary girl, but her trust in God led her to be part of the most extraordinary event in history: the birth of Jesus. Her story teaches us that when we trust God, even when things seem impossible, we can experience His miraculous love. This trust opens us to the love of Jesus and brings joy into our lives.

#### **Jesus: The Greatest Gift of God's Love (Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16)**

Jesus' birth, the central event in the Nativity story, shows us that Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love. His coming to earth as a baby, growing up to die for our sins, demonstrates God's immense love for us. Through Jesus, we can experience forgiveness and form a deep relationship with Him. When we realize this gift, it brings us the greatest joy of all.

### **HOT CHOCOLATE WITH GOD & S'MORES**

Friday, 1/5, 6:00-8:30 PM - PS-3rd grade

Friday, 1/12, 6:00-9:00 PM - 4-7th grade

Friday, 1/19, 6:00-8:30 PM - PS-3rd grade

Friday, 1/26, 6:00-9:00 PM - 4-7th grade

Our kids had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas together in December with our parties, games, and gift exchanges!

We look forward to starting a new series in January with our older kids and continuing our Journey through the Bible with our younger kids. They will move on in the Bible by looking at some important characters in the Old Testament: Jacob, Joseph, and Moses!



We are so blessed to have such a nurturing and supportive children's ministry at PCUMC. Our children always look forward to Hot Chocolate with God and S'mores, Children's Church, VBS, and Parents' Night Out.

Since returning to Buffalo in 2020, we have attended many churches in the area, trying to find the right fit for our family. A nursery and fabulous children's program with leaders who love both God and working with children is an exceptional combination. We especially love how the youth group and children's ministries support each other. It gives our kids the opportunity to have amazing role models and familiar faces at each event. Miss

Adrienne is so organized and always has creative and meaningful activities for the children, no matter their age. When I ask the question, "What did you learn about at church today?" my kids always know the answer!

"I love to do my homework so I can earn points for treats." -Aaron

"My favorite part of church is spending time with the little kids." -Grace



Youth Group is a great place for teenagers in 7th-12th grade to join together in fellowship, worship, small groups, discussions, lessons, games, activities, and a whole lot of fun!

**January meetings: 6:00-8:30 PM on Sundays 1/14 and 1/28**

Our Youth Group has been having a wonderful time together as we celebrated Christmas and learned about the true meaning of Christmas and the message it has for us. In December, our lesson was called "The Greatest Show on Earth." This lesson talked about how Jesus's birth shows us the inclusive invitation of Jesus' salvation. His coming means that ALL can come to Him. The truth of the Nativity scene is good news in all circumstances, not just cozy holiday sentiments.

**WINTER  
RETREAT**  
SAVE THE DATE - February 16-18

**Our annual Youth Retreat is coming soon,** and we are excited to go away for another amazing, fun-filled weekend at Camp Findley! We'll have a weekend packed with fellowship, games, and snow tubing, while we learn about God and grow in our relationship with Him and others.

**Sign up today by visiting [pendletonchurch.org/youth](http://pendletonchurch.org/youth) to get the registration form and more information.** The retreat will cost \$130 per person. This cost will cover food, lodging, and snow tubing. Your signed permission slip and payment will be due by Sunday, February 11. Be sure to sign up soon!

**There are also youth who would like to go on this year's retreat, but may not be able to attend due to the expense.** We are looking for sponsors to help with their cost. You can give a full scholarship, or any amount given will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Young adults and adults are welcome to join us and help lead, connect, and be role models for our youth. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, contact [Adrienne Demmin](#).

**Sponsor a Youth Group Snack:** Part of our Youth Group program is a time of snack. We provide snacks each meeting because we believe that food brings them together in fellowship with one another and helps them to connect socially and have casual conversations with each other. Plus, what teenager doesn't like food?

We are looking for volunteers to help in the following ways:

- By providing snack items such as chips, drinks, cookies, etc. that we can use any given week.
- Providing a pre-made snack (homemade or store bought) on a specific Youth Group night.
- Providing monetary donations.

If this is something you would be interested in supporting, please contact [Adrienne Demmin](#).





## Thursday Night Dinner Update!

What a year 2023 was!! What a blessing the Thursday dinners have been to both those receiving the meals and those who participate in the preparation, shopping, and serving! We truly love the folks who come out for our dinner, and the fact that we can also serve them spiritually with prayer and communion is something that warms our hearts! It's really why we do it. Caring for our neighbors is the call, and God has blessed this ministry greatly! We have been privileged to serve over 12,000 meals over the past year!

We want to thank all who support this wonderful outreach mission with your donations, financial assistance, and prayers!

We're hoping for an answer to prayers that will help supply our take-out containers - we have to move to more environmentally friendly containers that are much more expensive but are state approved. We ask everyone who may be able to help to prayerfully consider financial support for the continuation of this mission. It could be a one time donation or one that would be recurring. This is a critical part of getting our neighbors the food we make, so we ask for your help.

We look forward to another wonderful year of providing dinner and fellowship to the community in Jesus's name in 2024!

DJ Mahar

## Operation Christmas Child

Shoebbox numbers update! What a blessing it has been! Thank you so much to everyone who stayed after service and helped pack the cartons.

*From our Pendleton congregation - 362.*

*Collected and sent to Eastern Hills church - 1,342.*

A total of 26,915 shoeboxes came from our area! God is so good!

**Remember, we collect filler items all year round, so keep your eyes open for those deals!**

*Anna Smith*



## Coat Drive for Niagara Falls!

In our dealings with our friends in the Niagara Falls community during the Thursday night dinner, we have been made aware of the need for coats, gloves, and other outerwear for winter protection! If you have gently used items that you would like to donate to someone who is underdressed for our sometimes harsh weather, please bring them in, and we'll make them available through our clothing closet! We'll be collecting over the next several weeks, and items can be placed in the bins in the collection areas! Thank you!

DJ Mahar



## Feeding Hope

It was a great holiday celebration downtown Buffalo, serving the homeless and hungry our traditional meatloaf dinner. The weather was much milder than in some years. A great big **thank you** to Girl Scout Troop 70122. They provided all that we needed to prepare the meatloaf dinner. There were other groups present, complete with carolers. Such joy! This may have been the only Christmas joy the folks had.

January will be another blessed, fun filled time! Saturday, January 6, the Hot Chocolate with God & S'mores Leaders are providing, preparing, and going downtown to hand out meals. Many will be helping in a variety of ways - providing food items, cooking, packing meals, cleaning up, and handing out meals. I am so excited for this opportunity!

With the youth doing the whole meal, we won't need any additional help in the kitchen for January's meal.

Once again, if anyone is in need of a meal this day, please contact me.

Sandy Houck

## Intergenerational Angel Wings

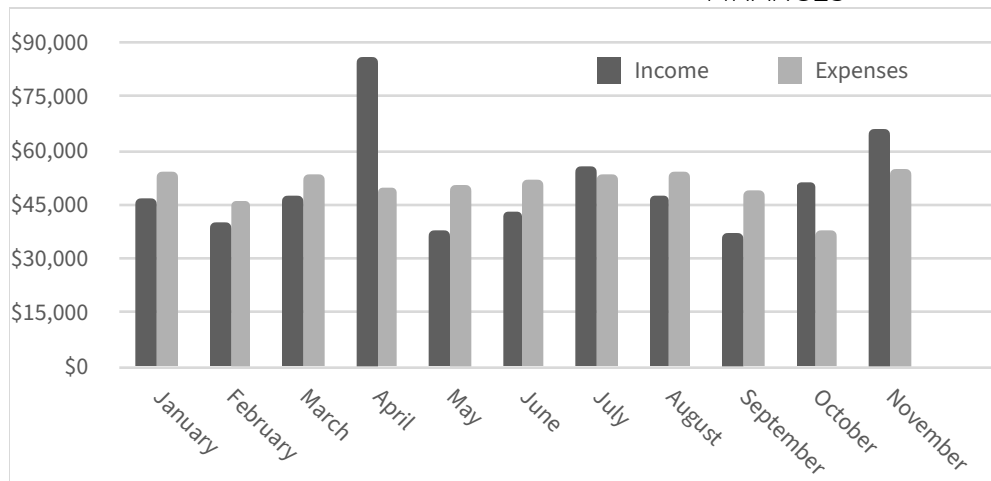
*Saturday, January 13, 12:00-3:00 PM, Fellowship Hall*

**Have you ever wondered what living with different abilities might be like?** Our January mission focus will be on living with different abilities and Mason's Mission - an organization dedicated to building an all-inclusive, ADA approved special needs playground in WNY. *Come find out your skill with different ability games!*

Come join us - we ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per family or \$3 per person, and will be collecting sensory toys. Sung Kim-Kubiak will lead our devotion

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ms. Becky or Ms. Anna.





**November YTD Actual Income: \$557,820**

November YTD Budgeted Income: \$555,130

**November YTD Actual Expenses: \$553,862**

November YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$573,733

**November YTD Income is \$3,958  
ABOVE Expenses**

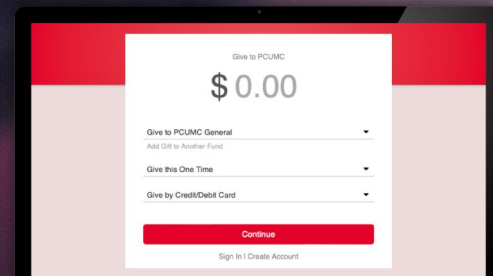
If you have the ability to help financially, it will give us the ability to continue to engage in ministry, provide for our people, take care of our employees, and care for people in need.

### Electronic Giving - A Simple, Generous Choice

[pendletonchurch.org/give](http://pendletonchurch.org/give)

**For more info:**

Email the office or  
call 716-625-8306



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### January Birthdays

- |                        |                          |                    |                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Cathy Klock        | 12 - Theresa Ash         | 19 - Sally Acord   | 24 - Nicholas Foit   |
| 3 - Derek Kneoppel     | Debbie King              | James Cain         | Harvey Joseph        |
| Max Kneoppel           | Mary Kofahl              | Ann Jurdi          | 25 - Alicia Booth    |
| Ellie Weller           | Alan Pogel               | Ruth Oakes         | Bob Walck            |
| 4 - Karen Kurczynski   | Peter Wasiewicz          | 20 - Derek Foit    | 26 - Dana Daigler    |
| 5 - Joe Margarucci     | 13 - Jessica Anderson    | Janet Gillon       | Dora Kubiak          |
| 6 - Linda Barczykowski | 14 - Crystal Langdon     | Donovan Jackman    | Jason Lickers, Jr.   |
| Melissa Gerber         | 15 - Pat Drexler         | Gabe Lee           | Premleela Thacore    |
| Joel Hocking           | Alissa (Hunt) Adams      | Delbert Pfohl      | 28 - Brodie Morris   |
| 7 - Crystal North      | 16 - Sean Bannach        | Will Terry         | 29 - Kathy Canaan    |
| 8 - Jim Jagow          | Dick Shenton             | 22 - Diane Haseley | Rachel Cash          |
| Daniel Piazza          | Lucy Weller              | Sue Wilson         | Sue Phillips         |
| 9 - Chad Stowe         | 18 - Sue Hauck-Wasiewicz | Jordan Zimmerman   | 30 - Jackson Grimmer |
| 10 - Liam Keelty       | Matt Jones               | 23 - Joanna Bull   | Bob Inwards          |
| Vince Piazza           | Emily Thompson           | Steve Cappon       | 31 - Haven Kinmartin |
|                        |                          | Michele Margarucci |                      |

### January Anniversaries

- 1 - George & Sherrie Peterson - '09
- 2 - William & Judy Fisher
- 9 - Richard & Deborah Joseph - '93
- 16 - Sean & Dara Bannach - '10
- 18 - John & Theresa Zimmerman - '01
- 22 - James & Lori Gondek - '83
- 25 - Dave & Sue Lester - '86
- 29 - Dustin & Jacque Weeks - '05

### Condolences

*We offer prayers for the friends and families  
who have lost loved ones over the past month:*

**Jan Gertz** Wife of Tom Gertz





JOY

# JOY TO THE WORLD CHRISTMAS CONCERT





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> - <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>1p - Loyal Ladies Bible Study</i>	<b>5</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (PS-3rd grade)</i>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>7p - Trustee Meeting</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>1p - Loyal Ladies Bible Study</i>	<b>12</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (4-7th grade)</i>	<b>13</b> <i>12p - Intergenerational Angel Wings</i>
<b>14</b> <i>6p - Youth Group</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>February Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>17</b> <i>6p - Women's Book Club</i>	<b>18</b> <i>1p - Loyal Ladies Bible Study</i>	<b>19</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (PS-3rd grade)</i>	<b>20</b> <i>9a - Men's Breakfast</i>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>10a - Newsletter Assembly</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>1p - Loyal Ladies Bible Study</i>	<b>26</b> <i>6p - HCWG/S'mores (4-7th grade)</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>6p - Youth Group</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>JANUARY 2024</b>		

## Weekly Schedule

For detailed info, check out the rest of the newsletter, visit [pendletonchurch.org/calendar](http://pendletonchurch.org/calendar), or call the office at 716-625-8306.

### Sundays

9:00 AM - Worship  
 - Jr. Church - 3 yrs.-6th grade  
 - Nursery Care - 0-2 yrs.  
 10:00 AM - Sunday Morning Bible Study  
 11:00 AM - Worship

### Mondays

10:00 AM - Niagara County Senior Lunch  
 5:30 PM - Girl Scouts  
 7:00 PM - Monday Night Small Group

### Tuesdays

1:00 PM - Watercolor Class

### Wednesdays

6:00 PM - Pendletones  
 7:00 PM - Men of Hymn

### Thursdays

5:00 PM - Community Dinner at First UMC  
 7:00 PM - GriefShare  
 7:00 PM - Boy Scouts

### Saturdays

10:00 AM - Watercolor Class  
 5:00 PM - Worship