

**First United Presbyterian Church
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342**



The Heavenly Herald

Dear Friends,

Christmas Season — all 12 days — comes to a close on January 6, 2010 as we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men on Epiphany. Jesus' birth was made known first to his own people, the Jews, and finally revealed to all the people of the world. Jesus is God's gift to all humankind.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance." John 10:10. The Way of Jesus Christ is a way of love, forgiveness, joy and peace. This is the greatest way to live following his example and his lessons. And Jesus' way of forgiveness, offered so generously to all of us, opens the Way to Eternal Life as well.

Christmas is not just for one day; not for a season, but for life!

Baby Jesus and the Bread Box by Patricia Lorenz

The week before Advent, I asked nine-year-old Andrew to set up the manger scene on the chest in the entryway of our home. He carefully unwrapped the delicate, hand-painted animals, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and placed the Baby Jesus in the wooden manger. The next day, I noticed Baby Jesus was missing. *Andrew's playing a joke on me*, I thought.

Later, when I started fixing supper, I opened the bread box on the kitchen counter, and there was Baby Jesus next to the bread! When I asked Andrew about this, his explanation was simple. "In religion class, Mrs. Hatzenbeller said Jesus is the bread of life, Mom. Besides, He shouldn't be in the manger until Christmas."

Ever since Andrew put Jesus in the bread box, it has become a family tradition. Now, from the first day of Advent until Christmas Eve, Jesus sits on top of or in the bread box to remind us that He is the bread of life. Each time I reach for the bread, I'm reminded to say a quick prayer of thanksgiving for our daily blessings, including our daily bread. On Christmas Eve, almost ceremoniously, Andrew places the baby in the manger between Mary and Joseph.

After the Epiphany, we put the manger scene away for the year. All except for Baby Jesus; He goes back in the bread box as a daily reminder that, just like our daily bread, the spirit of Christmas is an everyday, year-long event.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Rev. CJF Haurry



2010

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It's Time For a New Church Directory!

Can you name the year we published our last most recent 1st UP Church directory?

Photos were taken in 2005 and the book was distributed in 2006. It's been 5 years and many changes in our church membership and our addresses, phone numbers and email contact numbers.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THESE DATES FOR PHOTO SESSIONS:

THURSDAY, FEB. 18 — 3:00 TO 9:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, FEB. 26 — 3:00 TO 9:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEB. 27 — 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Our goal is to schedule a minimum of 100 photography sessions (30-35 families each day). Olan Mills professional photographers will take pictures of individuals and families. At the same appointment, you will see and select your photo for the directory. If you choose to, you may purchase photos.

Olan Mills offers special incentives: an extra 20 copies of the directory, 500 color brochures of our church and activities and \$200 donation to a ministry of our congregation. These require 100 photography appointments. So, plan now to gather your immediate family household on February 18, 26 or 27. Maybe it's time to gather grandparents and the whole clan for an extended family portrait!



Taters and Talent Night — Saturday, February 6, 2010

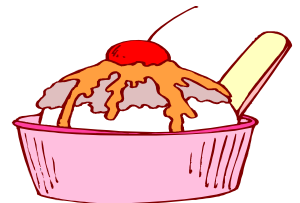
Baked Potato with all the fixins' from the Potato Bar; Talent Show
and during intermission with make your own ice cream sundaes

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets sold in advance: \$8.00 for adults: \$4.00 for children



If you would like to share your talent in the show,
please contact Jonnie Swarow 724 229-7684
or Karen Jones 724 948-3041
Proceeds benefit the Chapel Roof Fund.



SERVING THE CHURCH IN JANUARY 2010



GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

- January 3 Bob Blough (GV)
 Nancy Ward (MV)
 Renee Poland (GH)
 Skipper Maxfield (MH)
- January 10 Bethany Carder (GV)
 Nancy Martinez (MV)
 Vicky Lesjak (GH)
 Skipper Maxfield (MH)
- January 17 Valorie Checque (GV)
 Dottie Lesnock (MV)
 Margaret Strimel (GH)
 Skipper Maxfield (MH)
- January 24 Lynn Smith (GV)
 Linda Young (MV)
 Stacey Simpson (GH)
 Skipper Maxfield (MH)
- January 31 Bob Blough (GV)
 Rob Smith (MV)
 Tiffany Lesjak (GH)
 Skipper Maxfield (MH)

Elder Greeters:

- January 3 Gloria Schmalz (GH)
 Shane Koszarsky (GV)
 Leon Young (MH)
 Rev. CjE (MV)
- January 10 Rev. CjE (GH)
 John Zanaglio (GV)
 John Jones (MH)
 Grier Adamson (MV)
- January 17 Dave Checque (GH)
 Rev. CjE (GV)
 Kristie Coppola (MH)
 Cyndi Powell (MV)
- January 24 John Zanaglio (GH)
 John Lesjak (GV)
 Rev. CjE (MH)
 Dave Checque (MV)

January 31

Shane Koszarsky (GH)
 Bill Smith (GV)
 Fred Andy (MH)
 Rev. CjE (MV)

Money Counters:

Adam Johnston
 Bill Smith



Liturgist:

Harlan Shober

Nursery Workers:

Nursery schedule was not available at the time of publication.

January 2010						
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						

Annual Reports

Session Committees annual reports are due in the secretary's office by the Session meeting on January 19th.

JANUARY 2010 CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, December 31	New Year's Eve — Office Closed
Friday, January 1	Happy New Year — Office Closed
Sunday, January 3	6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
Tuesday, January 5	7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting at Angelo's in Washington
Saturday, January 9	9:00 a.m. to Noon Elder and Deacon training in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 10	Scrip card orders due 11:00 a.m. Communion 12:00 p.m. Discovery Class begins again 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
Friday, January 15	February newsletter articles due in office
Sunday, January 17	11:00 a.m. Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons 12:00 p.m. Discovery Class 12:00 p.m. Music & Worship Committee in Family Rom 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
Tuesday, January 19	Session committees annual reports due in secretary's office by Session meeting 7:00 p.m. Session
Sunday, January 24	12:00 p.m. Discovery Class 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
Saturday, January 30	9:00-11:00 a.m. Book Club
Sunday, January 31	Youth Sunday 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
Saturday, February 6	6:30 p.m. Taters and Talent Night
Sunday, February 14	11:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20 & 27:

6:30 p.m. Bells 8:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, January 7, 14, 21 & 28:

7:00-8:30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer Group in Family Room led by Bill Speakman.

Mondays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Doug Schmidt 724 747-3821

Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Larry Alling 724 746-3425



DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the February 2010 newsletter is **Friday, January 15th**. Please leave any articles you may have on the secretary's desk or you may email them to the church. Thank you for your cooperation.



Frances Wylie	1
Kylee Moninger	1
Tamra Jeffers	2
Virginia Rockwell	3
Denise Spinnenweber	3
Jalyn Shober	3
Jessica Young	5
Ron Marcase	6
Fred Andy	11
David Fee	11
Amy Wiszczor	11
Jami Craig	12
Joy Bell	12
Helen Giosta	12
Dorothy Kotyk	13
Linda Young	14
Emily Johnston	14
Blake Molinaro	15
Robert Myers	16
Tiffany Lesjak	16
Michael Amos	16
Valorie Checque	17
Dolores Grimes	18
Nancy Lewis	20
Thomas Whitfield IV	21
Tyler Keenan	22
Cathy Cushey	23
Pam Rose	23
Karen Jones	24
Robert Arnold III	27
Adam Johnston	27
Robert Culp III	27
Kimberly Eater	30
Mackenzi Marshall	30
Scott McFarland	30
Bayleigh Comer	31



News from the Deacons

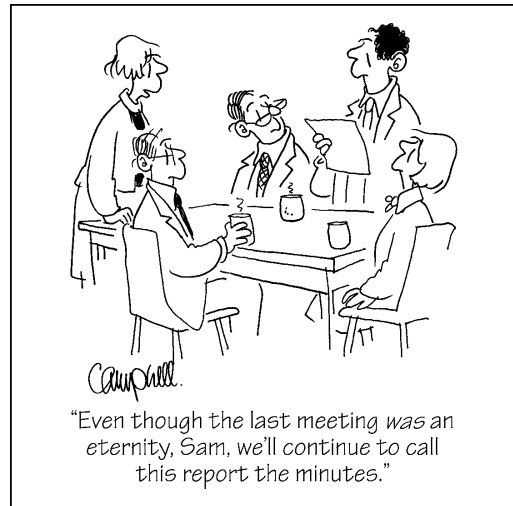
The Deacons would like to thank the congregation for all of the continued support in 2009. We could not continue our mission without you.

Scrip card orders are due the 2nd Sunday of each month. The profit from the sale of these cards will be used for the chapel roof.

We will be having another Max & Erma's fundraiser in the spring. Details will follow.

If you are interested in helping with the Canonsburg-Houston Food Pantry site at the Heritage House on January 14, please contact Cherie Kisla at 724-554-2433. Thank you.

The next Deacon meeting will be Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Angelo's in Washington.



Confirmation Class

The youth will be seeking sponsors for their participation in a 30 HOUR FAMINE to raise funds to fight hunger through World Vision. The 30 HOUR FAMINE will take place at the end of January.

www.houstonpresbyterian.org
Website:
tupcc@houstonpresbyterian.org
Email address:

Church tax number:
724 746-3041

Church Office 310
Open Door Nursery 311
Rev. CJF 313
Meals on Wheels 314

Church phone number:
724 746-3040

How to reach us:

Nonprofit organization
U.S. Postage
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Houston, PA 15342
Permit #4

First United Presbyterian Church
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342



Happy
New
Year



"THE LOVE OF THE LORD IS THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR MISSION!"