

The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

A letter from the Pastor...

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” – Matthew 2:11

Dear Friends of FUPC Houston,

At the last Presbytery meeting we were informed of two opportunities that we have to partner with other Presbyterians and give of our time, talent, and treasure to make an impact in our region in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Synod of the Trinity is inviting each of us to join together and help forgive medical debt for those who are in need, but not enough need that Medicaid would step in to help. The Synod of the Trinity is asking each of it's 120,000 members to donate \$5 in order to reach their goal of \$500,000. This may not seem that big of a number, but companies like RIP Medical Debt buy the medical debt for 1-2 cents on the dollar and then are able to wipe away the debt completely. This means that \$500,000 could effectively erase up to \$40 million dollars' worth of medical debt! More information about this mission opportunity and how you can donate is available on our website.

The other life-changing mission opportunity comes from our brothers and sisters at the Presbyterian Church in Charleroi. Rev. Sharon Woome shared of a great need for outreach and service to a rather large Haitian Refugee Community in Washington Presbytery near downtown Charleroi. They are in need of many basic items such as toiletries and food, but even more so are in need of volunteers to help teach basic life skills such as English as a Second Language, how to open a Bank Account, how to write a check, or how to get your Driver's License, or even just a compassionate shoulder to lean on as they try to process the upheaval and brokenness they have faced. If you are interested and able to donate an hour of your time every other month please contact me and I will get you more information.

Now is the time for us to give, not so that we can get something in return, but being like the Magi, let us give out of thanksgiving and joy for the overwhelming abundance of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ben

DECEMBER, 2023

**First United
Presbyterian Church**
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040
houstonpresbyterian.org

**Pastor
Ben Libert**
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724-469-1244 (Cell)

Secretary
Angela M. Itzel
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Clerk of Session
Sandy Wallace

Music Director
Karen Jones
jonesykj@verizon.net

Custodian
Robin Spiker

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Dec. 1st	Buddy Jeffers	Dec. 2nd	Inez Patsch
Dec. 2nd	Cindy Culp	Dec. 4th	Kristen Tonarelli
Dec. 4th	Tracy Spinnenweber	Dec. 8th	Grier Adamson
Dec. 9th	Sue Rungo	Dec. 9th	Ron Anestis
Dec. 10th	Lincoln Stevens	Dec. 11th	Bridget Layton
Dec. 12th	Susan Jaap	Dec. 12th	Janice Nakoneczny
Dec. 12th	Steve Colletti	Dec. 13th	Amy Comer
Dec. 15th	Mark Simpson	Dec. 16th	Madison Simpson
Dec. 17th	Harlan Shoher Jr.	Dec. 17th	Amanda Yetter
Dec. 18th	Hope Shoher	Dec. 21st	Joy Bauer
Dec. 22nd	Tom Zeni	Dec. 23rd	Diane Casiato
Dec. 23rd	Nick Lesjak	Dec. 24th	Bob Penvose
Dec. 25th	Bill Speakman, III	Dec. 27th	Jenna Yetter
Dec. 29th	Midge Hoover		



Dec. 1st - Bill & Alison Speakman, II
 Dec. 8th - Tom & Jackie Zeni
 Dec. 9th - Don & Janet Conner
 Dec. 18th - Darren & Robin Spiker
 Dec. 22nd - Dan & Kristie Coppola Jr.

Dec. 1st - Neal & Nancy Isiminger
 Dec. 8th - Robin & Debbie McFarland
 Dec. 13th - Bob & Marianne Blough Sr.
 Dec. 20th - Dave & Midge Hoover
 Dec. 29th - Ben & Sarah Wallace

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



NOVEMBER PRAYER REQUEST:

Cathy Lynch, Patty Goldbach, Nancy Magera, Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mary Lou Patsch, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bill Kelley, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, MaryAnn Clark, Curtis Marcase, and John Orlando.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

**Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and
all unspoken requests of our church family.**

**December Newsletter Articles
due by Monday, November 20, 2023.**

SERVING THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER, 2023

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

December - 3rd

(MV) Dodie Hanna
(GV) Janice Bloesel
(GH) Virginia Rockwell

December - 10th

(MV) Lala Patsch
(GV) Inez Patsch
(GH) Emmy Homitz

December - 17th

(MV) Nancy Isiminger
(GV) Volunteer
(GH) Volunteer

December - 24th

(MV) Virginia Bayne
(GV) Haley Steere
(GH) Virginia Rockwell

Christmas Eve

(MV) Volunteer
(GV) Volunteer
(GH) Volunteer

December - 31st

(MV) Janice Bloesel
(GV) Virginia Bayne
(GH) Volunteer

Elder Greeters:

December - 3rd

(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Stacey Simpson
(GH) Karen Jones

December - 10th

(MV) Gloria Schmalz
(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Jonnie Swarow

December - 17th

(MV) Harlan Shoher
(GV) Stacey Simpson
(GH) Pastor Ben

December - 24th

(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Jonnie Swarow
(GH) Karen Jones

Christmas Eve

(MV) Bob Blough
(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Harlan Shoher

December - 31st

(MV) Gloria Schmalz
(GV) Harlan Shoher
(GH) Pastor Ben

Music: Karen Jones **Audiovisual:** Leon Young

Liturgist: Sandy Wallace

Trustees:

Bob Blough,
Bo Lesjak &
Sandy Wallace

December Acolytes:

December 3rd - Mako Morgan
December 10th - Henry Libert
December 17th - Eden Jeffers
December 24th - Baker Libert
December 31st - Julia Swarow

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

December 3rd - Kaleigh Valley December 10th - Jamie Craig
December 17th - Kristie Coppola December 24th - Sandy Wallace
December 31st - Vicky Lesjak



**2023
Houston Pumpkin Festival
2nd place - Parade Float**

**Pastor Ben &
Family**



**Ryan & Talia
Steere**



FAMILY FUN FALL FESTIVAL - OCT. 28TH



Trunk-N-Treat Night - Oct. 31st



BAPTISM OF COLIN LAYTON

NOV. 12, 2023



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
LIL' CHIMERS



**Join us on December 10th.
The Lil' Chimers will be performing again!**



PASTOR BEN'S DECEMBER READINGS



DECEMBER 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-37
"Warning! Beware of doG!"

DECEMBER 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent
BAPTISM SUNDAY

2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
"The Waiting is..."

DECEMBER 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

Psalms 126:1-6
John 1:6-8, 19-28
"Those Who Dream"

DECEMBER 24, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-17
Luke 1:26-38
"Camping with God"

7pm Christmas Eve Service
Candlelight, Cantata, Communion

DECEMBER 31, 2023
1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Luke 2:22-40
"Anna one, Anna Who?"



DECEMBER, 2023



Regular Events
Sunday School - 9:45am
Worship - 11:00am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1-	2-
3-Christmas Tea 4:00pm Community Center, Arnold Park	4-Mission & Nurturing Mtg. 6:30pm	5-Deacons mtg. 6:00pm	6-	7-	8-	9-
10-Baptism Sunday Lil' Chimers	11-Admin Mtg. 6:30pm	12-	13-	14-	15-	16-
17-	18- Session Mtg. 6:30pm	19-	20-	21-	22-Office Closed	23-
24-Christmas Eve 7pm Cantata & Communion	25-Christmas Day	26-Angie Away	27-Angie Away	28-Angie Away	29-Office Closed	30-
31-	<i>Happy Holidays</i>					



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

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Houston, PA 15342

Church Office
 724-746-3040

Pastor Ext: 313
 1379pbl@gmail.com

Secretary Ext: 310
 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website
 houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School
 Sunday School Begins
 Sept. 18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service
September — May at 11:00 a.m.
 Nursery Available
 June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Gifts and Offerings

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



Member Visitor

Name _____ No. _____

Please apply my offering as follows:

Regular Offering	\$ _____
Deacons Fund	\$ _____
Building Fund	\$ _____
Special Project	\$ _____

Memorial Fund \$ _____

In Memory of _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift.