



Shavertown United Methodist Church

# Two Stories of Making Room

Photo credit: chiraya sharma



December 30-31, 2023

We're glad you're joining us today!

If you're looking for a church home, we'd love to welcome you as part of the Shavertown UMC family! Please fill out a yellow connection card found in the pew and place it into the collection plate.

You're invited to visit our Welcome Table in the Narthex for a gift and information on the many ministries of our church including Christian Education opportunities.

We hope you'll join us again.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas

## Helping with Worship today:

Greeters/Ushers: Donna & Sarah Church (Sat) Mae & Don Rome (Sun)

Liturgists: Mary Ellen Pajor (Sat) TBD (Sun)

(\* indicates please stand if you are able)

### PRELUDE

Saturday Worship Musician: Nancy Evans

Sunday: "Christmas Fantasie"

Adapted by Richard Bradley

Piano: Nancy Evans

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CENTERING MEDITATION

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. . . God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:7, 9

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Ellen (Sat) TBD (Sun)

There was no room in the inn.

**"We're booked solid, "said the innkeeper.**

God was ready to give the world a Messiah,

**But the world wasn't ready for a Savior.**

So the lamb of God

**Was born in a lambing stall;**

The shepherds worshipped him there.

**Let us worship him here — and now.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#224

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Mary Ellen (Sat) TBD (Sun)

Loving God, we welcome you and invite you to be present in our worship. Yes, we were not ready to welcome your Son into our world on that night in Bethlehem so long ago. But today, on this side of Bethlehem, the Cross, and the Empty Tomb, we are more than ready to listen to your voice, to be obedient to your Son, and to be empowered by your Spirit.

Thank you for your triune presence today made possible because you came to live among us. Amen.

**HYMN** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #229

**CHILDREN'S CHAT** "Where Children Belong" #2233 (Sun)

*This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO PRAYER** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" #204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us,  
his name is called Emmanuel.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Piano and Organ Duet (Sat) Randi Baldwin and Nancy Evans

"The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth" (Sun)

By I. Fraser, H. Onorati, L. Grossman, K. Davis, H. Simeone, A. Kohan

Vocal Duet: Caitlyn Dunn and Courtney Hahn

**\*DOXOLOGY** #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Mary Ellen (Sat) TBD (Sun)

**God of infinite chances, there is no length you will not go to, to offer us the possibility of new life and the opportunity for redemption. As we gather in gratitude for the gift of your Son, receive our thanks and humble appreciation for all that we receive, which makes us what we are. Bless these gifts and offerings, that they may bring light and life to God's people. Amen.**

**WORD OF GOD**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Pgs. 616 & 29 Respectively

Mary Ellen (Sat) TBD (Sun)

**HYMN**

"Sing We Now of Christmas"  
Vs. 1,2,3

#237

**MESSAGE**

"Two Stories of Making Room"

Pastor Jon

**\*HYMN OF GOING FORTH**

"Star Child"

#2095

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

"A Time for New Beginnings"

By Lani Smith  
Organ: Nancy Evans

**SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

163 North Pioneer Avenue, Shavertown, PA 18708

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Pastor: Rev. Jon Buxton

P: 570-675-6412 | E: [jbuxton@susumc.org](mailto:jbuxton@susumc.org)

Director of Music: Nancy Evans | Treasurer: Rich Fufaro | Nursery Staff: Nicole Trevaskis

Custodian: Brad Lothridge | Christian Education Director: Brenda Kopalek

Office Manager: Jeanne Kapral | Communications Coordinator: Amy Wall

**The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world!**



# Shavertown United Methodist Church Announcements

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30am through 3:00pm

Weekly Worship Services Saturdays 5:30pm & Sundays 9:30am

Activity Bags for young children are available in the back of the church.

Nursery is available during the 9:30am worship.

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## MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 31. We will see everyone back in class on January 7<sup>th</sup>!

**NEW OFFICE HOURS:** Beginning January 1, 2024, the office will be closed on Mondays. We will continue to be open Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30am until 3pm.

**UPPER ROOM:** The January/February edition of the Upper Room, a daily devotional, is now available in the Narthex. A donation is appreciated to go toward the cost, but is not required.

**TAKING DOWN THE GREENS:** Volunteers are needed to take down the Christmas decorations after worship on January 7.

**FLOWER CHART:** The 2024 flower chart is now in the Narthex. If you would like a particular week to purchase altar flowers, please fill in on the date you wish to reserve.

**SHOE COLLECTION FOR MISSION CENTRAL:** Once again this year, the Churches in our Back Mountain Cluster are invited to collect NEW & GENTLY WORN SHOES during the month of January for Mission Central. All donated shoes will be redistributed to the network of microenterprise partners in developing nations. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe, and house families.

**FOOD DRIVE:** Our Sunday School classes will be having a food drive for the Back Mountain Food Pantry January 14 through February 4. Watch for more information.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024:** Mark your calendars with some of these upcoming events at Shavertown UMC.

- Soup Tasting & Fest January 27
- Valentine's Dinner February 10
- Singing Valentine's February 14
- Chinese New Year Dinner February 17
- Easter Eggstravaganza March 23
- Spring Concert April 28
- Children's Day May 12
- Vacation Bible School July 15-18
- The Kings Brass Concert August 13
- Annual Golf Tournament September 9
- Trunk or Treat October 20

**NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP HELP FOR JANUARY 6-7:**

**Greeters & Ushers:** (Sat) (Sun)

**Liturgist:** Sarah Church (Sat) Cindy Biesecker (Sun)

**January Altar Guild:** Mary Ellen Pajor & Margi Esopi

**Trustee Week of Dec 31:** Joe Kopalek **Trustee Week of Jan. 7:**

**Finances:** Weekly Financial Goal: \$6,450 Week of Dec. 24-25: \$26,170

**Faithfulness in Attendance:** Dec 24-25: In Person Worship 103 Online Worship 35

## UPCOMING AND WEEKLY EVENTS DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 13

January 7: Taking Down the Greens following worship

January 7: Confirmation Meeting 4-6pm

### SHAVERTOWN UMC WEEKLY RECURRING REGULAR EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Sundays	9:30am	Worship
	10:30am	Sunday School for Children and Adults
	11:30am	God's Handful
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Mondays	1-3pm	Women's Bible Study
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Tuesdays	8am	Men's Ecumenical Breakfast @ Apple Tree Terrace
	10am	Coffee & Conversation @ McDonalds, Shavertown
	4:30pm	Children of Light (Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> )
	5:00pm	Chapel Chimes (Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> )
	6pm	Good News Ringers
	7pm	Men's Bible Study - Zoom
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Wednesdays	9am	Prayer on Zoom
	7pm	AA Meeting, Social Hall
	6:15pm	Bell Ensemble Rehearsal in Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir (Adults)
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Thursdays	7pm	AA Book Discussion Meeting, Social Hall
	7pm	Connected in Christ, Lounge
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Fridays	10am	Community Care Cabinet
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Saturdays	5:30pm	Worship

# WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

Please contact Pastor Jon Buxton or the Church Office at 570-675-3616 if you are being hospitalized, having surgery, in need of pastoral care or prayer. Prayer requests can be included on the email prayer chain by contacting the church office at shavertownumc@susumc.org.

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**OUR JOYS:** Christmas Celebration of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**ALWAYS BE IN PRAYER FOR:** The United Methodist Church, Our Country, People of Ukraine, Victims of the shootings & violence; those persecuted for their faith; men & women in Law Enforcement; caregivers; those in difficult relationships; children & teens at risk; those incarcerated; those with hatred in their hearts; marriages in trouble, cancer and Covid 19 victims, families dealing with Alzheimer's

**PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Our homebound friends, Victims in Israel & Gaza, Family of Shirley Edwards, Nancy Osgood, Alex, Roberts Family, Royal Sutton, Tom, Ron, Amy, Ayden, Ethan, Declan & Nicole Trevaskis, Peggy Biesecker, Edward Wong, James

*Names remain on the list for 2 weeks unless notified otherwise. Thank You & may God bless!*

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:**

Maj. Shannon Dzury Dawson, USAF  
Sgt. Amy Polachek, USM, Quantico, VA  
LCDR John W. Gilligan, US Navy  
Rick Hodle Jr., US Navy  
Sgt. Scott Kocher  
Sgt. Josh McCue, US Air Force  
LT. Col. Stephen C. Phillips  
Specialist Charles Yavorski, Ft. Bragg, NC  
Todd Mark, US Army, South Korea  
1st LT. Gregory Navestad, Hill AFB, UT  
LT. Joey Zobel, U.S.N., Washington, DC.

Travis Butler, US Navy Reserves  
Maj. Erika Reese, US Army, Ft. Benning, GA  
Captain Michael T. Shutlock, US Air Force  
1st LT. Allen Carson, 109th US Army  
Reserves, Phila.  
Sgt. Brandon Pall, Army, Maryland  
Rick Hodle III, US Army  
Jon Laity, US Navy, Japan  
CPL Michael Biesecker, USMC Reserves  
Daniel Cochran, US Navy, S.C.

**Think of this Friend** (with cards and prayers)  
Jean Linker, 42 Spring St., Shavertown, Pa. 18708