



*East Union Presbyterian Church*

December 22, 2024

9:30am In The Sanctuary

**"Love Grows"**

**Pastor James at the Pulpit**

Photo by Carlos Santiago



# East Union Presbyterian Church

.....Sunday, December 22, 2024

## .....*Compass Points*

### *Welcome To East Union Church*

We are delighted you are here! Please refer to page 11 for information about Worship Services, Christian Education and Outreach programs.

### *Santa Breakfast Re-Cap Meeting*

Teresa Williams will be hosting a debriefing meeting today, right after worship in Kennedy Hall. We are always looking for ways to improve our outreach events. Please bring your suggestions to this meeting for discussion.

### *Youth Bible Sponsors*

Last Sunday, we presented Bibles to our second graders and a few of our third graders who have not already received one. We want to extend a special thank you to our Bible Sponsors this year: Carol Bock and Donna Paszek!



### *2025 Offering Envelopes*

Mindy has printed all 2025 offering envelopes and they are available at the Welcome Table. If you do not currently receive envelopes and would like to, please contact Mindy. She is happy to print those for you!

### ● *Rummage Sale Donations* ●

We are now accepting Rummage Sale donations. All items will be stored in the Choir-Conference room. Drop off times will take place Mon-Fri from 10am-2pm. All items must be in boxes that can be stacked neatly.

Contact Carol McCaskey for larger donation items, 724-312-5656.

**The Rummage and Bake Sale will be March 7 & 8, 2025.**

(Sorry, no clothing, televisions, exercise equipment or computer screens)

# Mystery in the Manger

## Case Closed!

Our children and youth did an amazing job sharing the Good News of Jesus' Birth in our Mystery in the Manger Christmas Pageant! A fun script, awesome sets, fantastic costumes, beautiful music, delicious birthday cake, but most of all---our amazing kids--brought the story of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to life! Enjoy these pics, and may you find JOY as you discover God's mysteries and miracles this Christmas! Many more photos on Facebook!



# Announcements

## Walnut Woods Summer Camp

**Early Registration Discounts from January 10-Feb 2, 2025.**

Register for 1-4 weeks and save 10% on each week

Register for 5-8 weeks and save 15% on each week

Register for 9-10 weeks and save 20% on each week. (That's up to a \$400 savings for the entire summer)

*\$200.00 per week, \$50 non-refundable registration fee, field trip weeks are subject to an additional \$15.00 Fee.*

\*Registration fees must be paid in full by February 2 to receive the discount. No Exceptions.

A graphic for Walnut Woods Summer Camp 2025. It features a yellow sun with rays on the left, blue clouds on the right, and a white box containing the text "Walnut Woods" in a serif font, with "AT EAST UNION CHURCH" in a smaller sans-serif font below it. The main text "10 WEEK SUMMER CAMP 2025" is in a large, bold, yellow, bubbly font. Below that, "EARLY REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 10, 2025\*" is written in a large, bold, blue, serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller italicized font, it says "\*Discounts end February 2 at midnight."/>

**Walnut Woods**  
AT EAST UNION CHURCH

**10 WEEK  
SUMMER CAMP 2025**

**EARLY REGISTRATION OPENS  
JANUARY 10, 2025\***

*\*Discounts end February 2 at midnight.*

## EECM Meal

The East Liberty Community House meal will be served on January 7! If you are willing to provide items for the meal, please sign the EECM sign up form at the Welcome Table. Our Youth Group will be delivering and serving the meal. Contact Doug Blinn at 724-681-4220 for more information. The Community House residents and our Mission Team so appreciate your efforts and support!

# Join Us This Advent 2024

## FROM THE MANGER



Hunger is a universal human experience—reminding of our most basic needs for food and nourishment for our bodies, as well as of our more complex needs for peace and meaning in our lives. It's no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food.

Join us this season, as we reflect on the life-sustaining Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Jesus brings and explore how the baby born in Bethlehem continues to feed us, and a hungry world, today.

### Worship With Us

*Sundays in the Sanctuary at 9:30am*

**LOVE GROWS** ~ December 22—**Ugly Christmas Sweater & PJ Day**

**GOOD NEWS HAS COME** ~ Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve at 7pm

Guest Preacher Noble Ramsey ~ December 29

**EPIPHANY** ~ January 5 ~ Communion

### Grow With Us

*Listen to...*

**Advent Song – “From The Manger” on Spotify**

**Weekly Advent Devotional can be accessed as a Packet, Podcast or Online!**

*Everything Advent 2024 can be found on our website. Due to copyrights, we are required to have this information password protected as this information is only intended for members of our congregation. The password to access is 1234.*

## *Share Your Prayers Through Advent*

This Advent, you will find an Advent Wreath Prayer Board in our Narthex, and on our Facebook page! You are encouraged to share your prayers of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love using the pink and purple sticky notes (or in the comment section online.) We are hoping to have all of the "white space" filled with prayers by our Christmas Eve service!



# Worship Service

Sunday, December 22, 2024 • 9:30am in the Sanctuary

All lyrics projected on the screen



Prelude

*From The Manger*

Gathering and Welcome

Call to Worship

Lighting Of the Advent Wreath

*The Watt Family*

\* Congregational Song

*From The Manger*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Confessional Song

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Assurance of Pardon

\* Passing of the Peace

Children's Chat

*Following the Congregational Song, children are invited to take a Worship Tote and library book to their seats; the totes include coloring books and a snack. We also offer a KidsZone in the Sanctuary for little ones (and parents) with toys, puzzles and books. Our Sunday School Hallway features a Children's Library, in the Blue Room, while the Orange Room is filled with toys.*

Scripture Readings:

**Luke 2:20-32**

**Matthew 9:35-37**

Sermon

"Love Grows"

Pastor James

**\*All who are able, please stand**

Announcements

Offering

*Thank you for your generous financial contributions which support East Union Church, our ministries and missions. The Offering Plate will be passed. (We also accept Venmo for donations, you can scan this QR code or set up online donations at our church website. Call the church office...Mindy can help!)*



\* Congregational Song

*Joy to the World*

Dismissal of Online Audience

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer followed by The Lords Prayer

Congregational Song

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

A poster for a Christmas Eve service. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright star on the right and a silhouette of a stable with figures inside. The text is centered and reads: 'ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR Christmas Eve SERVICE 7pm Family Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary'. At the bottom, it says 'East Union PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' in a dark box.

ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR  
*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE  
7pm Family Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary  
East Union  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# *Announcements*

## *Mission Opportunity - Habitat Workday!*

The East Union Mission team, in partnership with Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity, will be taking a group of willing workers to one of Habitat for Humanity's House Refurbishing Projects in the New Kensington area.

**Workday:** Saturday, January 11, 2025

**Start Time:** 9:00am

**End Time:** 2:00pm

Meet at Church parking lot at 8:30am

We would be working on interior items as there is heat in the home.  
Minimum age with Parent or Guardian: 14

Please contact Doug Blinn for questions or to reserve your spot.

Email: [dhblinn@gmail.com](mailto:dhblinn@gmail.com)

Text or Call: 724-681-4220

## *Looking Ahead to 2025:*

**Worship Returns to the EUCC - January 12**

**Sunday School for Children & Adults - Sundays, 10:45-11:30am**

**Popcorn And A Movie - January 3 & February 7**

**Ash Wednesday (Drive-Thru Ashes) - March 5**

**Rummage Sale - March 7 & 8**

**Youth Group Bingo Fundraiser - March 14**

**Women's Ministry Retreat - March 22**

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny - April 5**

**Bowling with the Easter Bunny - April 13**

**Easter Worship Service - April 20**

**Spring Craft Fair - May 3**

**Walnut Woods Summer Camp - June 9-August 15**

**Vacation Bible School - June 16-20**

**Youth Mission Trip to NC—June 21-27**



# Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

## In Our Prayers

(To include someone on the prayer list, please call the church office)

**In Mission:** Allie Gray (Guatemala)

**Care Facility:** Emily Allison (Harmar Village)  
Karen Klemmensen (Quality Life Services of Grove City)  
Joann Peterson (Atria's Senior Living, McCandless)  
Bob Fyala (Montefiore Hospital)

**Home Care:** Joan Kozub Jeanne Walter Jan Fyala Bonnie Braun

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*East Union Birthdays*  
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Joe Haynes (12/23)  
Ted Barsolo (12/29)

Ryleigh Delaney (12/28)

**Contact Deacon Of The Month For Deacons Care Ministry**  
**Rachel Hetrick - 412-708-5238**

**Prayer Requests...** To initiate your prayer request or join the Cloud, contact: Carol McCaskey (724-312-5656 / camc@consolidated.net) or Teresa Williams (412-613- 4375/ dlns@verizon.net.)

**You Are Not Alone** — Your pastors are here for you! If you need support, assistance or prayer... If you have questions about who God is and how to grow in your faith... If you are struggling with grief, anxiety or depression... If addiction or conflict is affecting your relationships... We care about you...in body, mind and spirit! Please contact the church office or email the pastors to schedule a confidential visit. In case of an emergency, Pastor James can be reached at 724-681-5672.

**Also available** to provide information and support:

Samaritan Counseling Center.....(412) 741-7430

Hope Center (Abuse and/or Domestic Violence)(888) 299-4673

ReSolve Crisis Services.....1-888-7YOU-CAN (796-8226)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....**988** or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

National Substance Abuse Hotline.....1-800-662-HELP (4357)

# *The Week At A Glance*

## **Sunday, December 22 – December 29, 2024**

Today: **Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Sweaters & PJ's!**  
9:30am - Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:45am - Santa Breakfast Meeting (Kennedy Hall)

Monday: 6:00-9:00pm - Private Reservation (Kennedy Hall)

Tuesday: **Compass Points Deadline—Christmas Eve**  
7:00pm - Candlelight Family Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday: **Christmas Day—Merry Christmas!**  
12:00-6:00pm—Private Reservation (Kennedy Hall)

Friday: 6:00-8:00pm - Cub Scouts (EUCC)

Saturday: 2:00-4:00pm - Private Reservation (Kennedy Hall)

Next Sunday: **Guest Preacher - Rev. Noble Ramsey**  
9:30am - Worship (Sanctuary)

***To reserve any part of the church building or grounds,  
contact the church office 724.265.1381***

### ***Church Office Closed for the Holidays***

The office will be closed from December 27th-January 3. Mindy will periodically check her personal church email. If there are any emergencies please contact Clerk of Session, Carol McCaskey at 724-312-5656.

### ***Build Your Legacy with a Planned Gift***

Making a planned gift enables you to build a meaningful legacy while maintaining control of your finances. By including East Union Church in your estate plan, your generosity advances our mission and ministries, and extends the Good News of God's love into our community and beyond—now and in the future! If you have questions on how to get started please reach out to the church office at 724-265-1381.

### ***Per Capita Reminder!***

With only a couple weeks left of 2024, we want to remind everyone to please cover your per capita fee for 2024. The fee is \$36.35. Per Capita can be paid online or by specifying 'per capita' on your contribution envelope.



**God Be With You Till We Meet Again**

Thanks For Worshipping With Us Today

Have A Great Week!



# East Union Presbyterian Church A Church With Direction

## *A Warm Welcome Is Extended To Our Guests!*

What a pleasure to have you worship with us this morning! Please take a moment to fill out our Connection Card, available at the Welcome Table, and return it in the offering plate or Connection Card box. (We respect your privacy and do not share this information.) Please know that you are invited to participate in all of our activities and events.



**Worship Schedule.** Sundays at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Weekly Services are **broadcast on YouTubeLive**. Directions are available at our website and on our Welcome Table. (If you have trouble hearing and would like a printed copy of the sermon to follow along in worship, please contact Pastor James. )

## *Youth Group*

Teens, 6th–12th grade, are invited to Youth Group! Meeting notices and event details will be sent out through TeamSnap. Contact the Church Office or Frank McCoy to have your name added to the contact list.

## *Sunday School*

Sunday School for Children and Adults is offered most Sundays. Classes meet after worship from 10:45—11:30am

**Save the Date! VBS is scheduled for June 16-20, 2025!**

## *Women's Ministry*

All ladies are welcome to participate in our events, Bible Studies, Annual Retreat and Book Club. Please call or text Teresa Williams (412.613.4375) to be added to the WM's email list. **Women's Retreat - March 22,2025**

## *Facebook & Instagram*

Like and Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on all the happenings here at East Union Church!

## *Clearances*

PA State Law requires East Union to maintain a file of current PA Criminal and Child Abuse Clearances for all adults, age 21 and older, who have contact with children without their parents present. Clearances are free, easy to obtain online and last for 5 years. Please make sure yours are up-to-date. If you need help, please contact Mindy or Pastor Jo.

# East Union Presbyterian Church

292 East Union Road, Cheswick, PA 15024

Church Telephone: 724-265-1381

Website: [www.EastUnionChurch.org](http://www.EastUnionChurch.org)

Email address: [EastUnion@EastUnionChurch.org](mailto:EastUnion@EastUnionChurch.org)

Rev. James C. Ramsey.....	Pastor / Head of Staff
Rev. Jo Ramsey .....	Associate Pastor of Family Life
Frank McCoy .....	Youth Director
Mindy Young.....	Admin/Financial Secretary & Walnut Woods Director
John H. Burk, Jr.....	Treasurer
Colleen Zaremski .....	Deer Lakes Nursery School
Mike & Stephanie McCormick .....	Housekeeping/Maintenance

## Ministry Teams & Committees 2024

Administration & Staff .....	Gail Stotlemeyer
Christian Education .....	Pastor Jo
Christian Growth & Membership .....	Pastor James
Mission .....	Doug Blinn
Women's Ministry .....	Teresa Williams, Sue Vresh
Worship .....	Carol McCaskey
Nominating Committee .....	Carol McCaskey
Cemetery Committee .....	Joe Williams
Revenue Advisory Team .....	Dana Wangler

## Session

John Burk	Carol McCaskey, Clerk	Jared Hawk
Keith Russell	Doug Blinn	Todd Shaw
Dawn Spence	Gail Stotlemeyer	Lori Crawford
Teresa Williams	Marcia Cook	Patty Martinez
Vicki Callender	Jessica Mickail	Wanda Blackwell

## Board of Deacons

Bonnie Braun	Heather Rusek	Hannah Runas
Bree Hansen	Janet Wangler	Rita Michel
Jan Blinn	Rachel Hetrick	Kristin Parise
	Shari Smallwood, Moderator	Janet Volkman

## Board of Trustees

Tom Crawford	Joe Andrie	Carol Bock
William Runas	Matt Forsman	Lori Butler
Rich Rusek	Bill Maher	Mary Runas
Kevin Vresh, President	Tom Wagner	Keith Tarbi