

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP      January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: On this day, we remember the gift of God's Word,

**P: who gathers us together from the farthest parts of the world to worship in joy and hope.**

L: On this day, we remember the simple graces of the bread and the cup,

**P: those plain gifts shaped by God's love into nourishing hope.**

L: On this day, we remember the gifts of water and oil,

**P: cleansing us in the baptismal pools, anointing us as God's children.**

**\* HYMN                    "The First Noel"                    #136**

**\*CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: Have we really been to Bethlehem? Have we worshiped at the manger? Have we changed, for the better? Or have we simply gone back to being the people we were before the joy, the peace, the gifts of Christmas? Let us confess how we have not lived as those who have seen the Baby, as we pray together, saying,

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\***

**ALL: God of Christmas: we still are playing with our new toys, the creche figures have not been put away; we have the stacks of Christmas cards, but we memorize the words sin has taught us; we set limits on who we will love, we make promises we cannot keep, we fail to see the pain and hurt we cause.**

**God of the angels and shepherds, forgive us. Your Word has come to reshape our lives; your Light has come to show us the way home; your Son has come to make us your family. Have mercy and make us new people. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: Like the Baby of Bethlehem, we are born anew. God's forgiveness cradles us; God's love is poured out on us.

**P: What a marvelous gift - forgiveness! Filled with hope and new life, we can sing God's praises forever.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#623**

**CHURCH NEWS**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*(Please greet your neighbor by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")*

**REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication\*\***

**#625**

Blessed are we, O God, for you came to be with us, to walk with us, and to share our lives. As we offer our gifts to you, may we be willing to share in the lives of those around us, to share in their journeys, and to be your presence and spirit in their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Old Testament      Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

**p.679**

**New Testament      Ephesians 1: 3-14**

**p.1017**

**Gospel      John 1: 1-18**

**p.922**

**MESSAGE      Tammy Noss, ALP**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed**

**\*HYMN      "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"      #152**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. P: And let our cry come unto Thee.  
L: Let us bless the Lord! P: Thanks be to God.

## PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" #135

### \*BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\*

Go forth now, with God's Word echoing in your hearts.

**We will go to share God's hope with all who are empty.**

Go forth now, with the grace of Jesus filling your souls.

**We will go to share the justice of Jesus with all who are forgotten.**

Go forth now, with the Spirit's peace resting on you.

**We will go to share this peace, placing it like a shawl around the broken, the grieving, the lonely.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Angels, from the Realms of Glory", verse 1 #131

*\*Those who are able please stand.*

\*\*© Rev. Thom Shuman

ORGANISTS : John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

**Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts:**

**The gift of God to man – his unspeakable gift of his son;**

**And the gift of man to God – when we present our bodies as living sacrifice and, like the Macedonians, first give ourselves to God.**

**No one has kept or can keep Christmas until he has had a part in this two-way transaction.**

Vance Havner



|                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Offering: 12/24 &amp; 12/28</b> | <b>Sunday January 4th</b>  |
| <b>Attendance: 29 (12/24)</b>      | Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. |
| 13 (12/28)                         |                            |
| <b>Local 705.00</b>                |                            |
| <b>Benev. 48.55</b>                |                            |
| <b>Improv. 41.45</b>               |                            |
| <b>Christmas <u>1370.00</u></b>    |                            |
| <b>Total 2165.00</b>               |                            |

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday January 11th</b> |
| Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. |

**A Congregational Business Meeting** will be held on Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> after Morning Worship. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Mark Your Calendars!** The annual Redstone Presbytery Enrichment Day will be held on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> at Westmont Presbyterian Church. Look for more information coming soon.

**The West End Food Pantry** is in need of non-perishable food items to help restock their shelves after a busy holiday season. Donations can be placed in the boxes by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary Donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

**Ed Sheets** is collecting small shipping boxes. If you have any you no longer need, you can place them on the table in the back of the chapel. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



**Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...**

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Dawna Sheets          | Bobbie Johnson               |
| Jeanne Lehman         | Barry Ross                   |
| Marie Whorl           | Dave & Karen Vivis           |
| Bev Holbay            | Joshua Holbay Family         |
| Mark Todero           | Dominic Serratore            |
| Carl Newfield         | Jim Kuntz                    |
| Beverly Rager         | Jimmy Stormant               |
| Frank Cassat          | Bruce Torrence               |
| Nancy Kahl            | All Shut- Ins                |
| Linda Hayes           | All in Nursing Homes         |
| Jessie Rager          | All First Responders         |
| Bill & Patty Gramling | All Service Men & Women      |
| Mike & Charlene Jean  | All Healthcare Professionals |
| Eileen Rozich         |                              |

**To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names** in the bulletin please email [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@hotmail.com).

**Visit Our Website** ([www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for- the latest news, information and much more!

**Sign Ups** for 2026 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

**Orders** are now being taken for 2026 Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships. Order forms and more information can be found on the back bulletin board and can be placed in the offering plate. Orders can also be placed on the church website.