

Bethlehem

Church Dallastown

109 East Main Street

Dallastown, Pennsylvania 17313-2207

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
YORK PA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*If you are no longer interested in receiving this publication, please
call (717) 244-1486 or email: office@gotobethlehem.org.*

The Lamplighter

December 2025

Bethlehem Church Dallastown



Bethlehem Church Dallastown

109 E. Main Street, Dallastown, PA 17313

Office: (717) 244-1486

Dave Stough, Lead Pastor

office@gotobethlehem.org

Pastor's Pen

Hello Church!

When we think back to Christmas as children, most of us can still feel that unmistakable sense of wonder. The tree seemed taller. The lights seemed brighter. The world felt bigger, more magical, and full of possibility. We didn't have to try to feel it—wonder simply found us.

As adults, that kind of wonder can feel harder to come by. We get busy. We get tired. We get used to things. But the story of Scripture—and the story of Christmas itself—invites us to remember that God has always worked in ways that stir awe and spark hope.

Think of Abraham. God promised him something that sounded impossible: that he would become the father of a great nation. Abraham was old, worn, past the age when dreams like that seem realistic. And yet, God called him to lift his eyes, believe the impossible, and step forward in trust. Abraham's story begins with wonder—a holy, surprising, joyful astonishment at what God can do when everything seems unlikely.

This December, I want to invite you to look for that same kind of wonder. Not childish wonder, but childlike wonder—the kind Jesus said we should never lose. Wonder opens our eyes to God's movement. Wonder reminds us that God is not done working. Wonder nudges us to trust when we don't yet see the whole picture.

Christmas is, at its core, a story of unexpected wonder: A young girl chosen to carry the Savior. Shepherds caught off guard by singing angels. Wise men following a strange star. A King arriving in a manger. Nobody saw it coming. But those who were willing to look, listen, and follow were swept into the joy of what God was doing.

May this Advent season awaken your heart again. Slow down. Look around. Ask God to help you see the beauty, the miracles, the quiet gifts, and the surprising moments He may already be placing in your path. Let wonder draw you closer to Him—and let faith rise as you trust that God is still leading, still speaking, and still doing the extraordinary in the middle of ordinary days.

This December, may we not only celebrate Christmas— may we rediscover the wonder of a God who still delights in surprising His people.

In Christ, Pastor Dave

Life Under the Clock Tower



Year to Date

Contributions compared to 2025 budget
for
Bethlehem Church as of
November 16, 2025

Current fund	\$ -242,445.00
Property improvement	\$ 4,573.00
New Vision	<u>\$ -31,349.00</u>
Budget is	\$ -269,221.00

MEMBER
CLASS

STARTING AFTER THE NEW YEAR
IF INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH,
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

Word Search

Find these festive words! Look up, down, backward, forward and diagonally.

G	N	I	K	C	O	T	S	T	S
E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	J
O	L	W	X	C	Y	Q	N	M	I
T	I	I	A	R	O	T	V	W	N
E	M	T	R	A	A	Y	M	Y	G
L	S	E	V	L	E	Z	C	P	L
T	M	Y	D	M	K	J	S	R	E
S	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E
I	Z	Q	X	H	G	I	E	L	S
M	J	F	D	L	Y	L	O	J	

SANTA
JINGLE
MERRY
PRESENT
STOCKING
MISTLETOE
CANDYCANE

ELVES
SLEIGH
JOLLY



www.5minutesformom.com

Greetings my Bethlehem Church family, Charity reporting,

Knowing that you are all probably going to say that you have heard this before, I can't help myself, because, in my tiny mind, December is the greatest time of the year!!! I so look forward to how beautifully the church will be decorated by the Altar and Flower Guild; how the beautiful music of the season will be lifted up by the Praise Team, the Children's Choir, and the Chancel Choir; the joyful spirit that fills the air, as well as our hearts and minds; how people within the community will enjoy the Christmas meal that will be served; but, most of all, the Christmas Eve services that will focus on the birth of the Messiah, our Savior come down to earth in the form of a baby. Yes, this truly is 'the most wonderful time of the year.'

Before I get into the December activities here at Bethlehem, let me report on some incredible information I have uncovered. On Harvest Home Sunday in November, donations resulted in 56 boxes of food (weighing over 500 pounds) that was collected for those in need. Additionally, 212 of the red and green "Operation Christmas Child" boxes were sent from our church to brighten the Christmas of children all around the world. Bethlehem Church, you are amazing!!! Thank-you.

Speaking of music of the holidays, I have seen the flyers that share some of the upcoming dates where we all will have the opportunity to enjoy some inspiring music. On Sunday, December 7th, from 3:00 to 4:30, our own Tamie Fisher will be providing a Piano Open House. Everyone is invited to stop by the church and stay for as little or as much beautiful piano music as you might desire. I already have a great spot picked out, one where I will be able to relax and still hear Tamie 'tickle the ivories' as I have overheard someone describe it. I would share the location with all of you, but then it wouldn't be a secret location, would it? The following Sunday, December 14th, we will be treated to what most of us doesn't hear very often, a harp duo. Anna Smith, Natalie's daughter, will be teaming up with a college classmate to provide an exciting concert, sure to be one of the highlights of December. And then on the third Sunday in December, on the 21st, the chancel choir will be presenting its annual Christmas Cantata at the 10:30 worship service. "Sing a Song of Christmas" is this year's selection, and is sure to bring back thoughts of that amazing event that took place in Bethlehem, on a night more than 2000 years ago. Come to all three musical treats and discover how much your Christmas season will be enriched. I'll be looking for you.

Church Mouse

On Christmas Eve, as it has been for as long as me and my mouse family have been living here at Bethlehem Church, three unique worship services will take place. At 4:00pm, what is known as the Children's Service will take place in the Sanctuary. Take it from me (as I have seen every one of them), this service is designed for children of all ages, even those whose hair has turned gray.

The Contemporary Service will take place at 7:30pm in the Life Center. And at 10:30pm the Traditional Service can be found in the Sanctuary. There is individual candle-lighting taking place at all three services.

Sunday, December 21st at 4:00pm has been set aside as the churchwide Christmas dinner. I have heard that it is a pot luck meal. So I don't mislead you, and provide you with misinformation, please check the weekly bulletins and announcements shown on the screen each Sunday Morning for what type of dish you are asked to bring. Meat, beverage, and dinner rolls will be provided. I have heard that there will be some form of entertainment following the meal, but I don't know any of those details.

Finally, my family is also always excited for the dinner on Christmas Day that is available for people from the surrounding community that wouldn't otherwise have a meal that day. It is always amazing how many come to enjoy a meal in the warmth of our church. It takes a whole lot of people to make such a large endeavor work so well, and it certainly is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who make this outreach possible. And thanks to all of you who will unknowingly drop food on the floor of New Fellowship Hall at either of these two medals. It really does brighten the season for my mouse family.

Here is some quick info!!! 1) The Bethlehem Book Club will be discussing "The Christmas Angel Project" by Melody Carlson on Tuesday December 2nd. 2) The Lunch Bunch will be meeting Tuesday, December 16th, at noon at the Rivertown Restaurant. 3) Make-A-Wish will be holding their annual event at 11:30am in New Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 7th. 4) The William C. Goodridge "Festival of Trees" exhibit will open December 5th, from 4pm to 8pm at 123 E. Philadelphia Street in York. Other exhibit dates are 12/6, 12/10, 12/13, 12/17, and 12/20 from 11am until 4pm.

Life Under the Clock Tower

Christmas Card treasures

Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

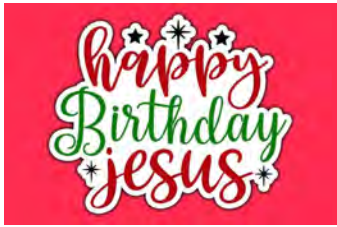
- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)

Life Under the Church Tower



Sunday
December 21st

During Sunday School, we will celebrate Jesus's birth with a shortened lesson, games, crafts, and snacks

**JOIN US
for Youth Group!**

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAYS FROM 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

BETHLEHEM CHURCH
109 E. MAIN STREET,
DALLASTOWN, PA 17313

FOLLOWING JESUS!

Sunday Youth Group

Volunteers needed to bring meals

Sign up in Wesley Hall

If you would like provide a meal for our youth group time there is a sign up sheet in Wesley Hall!

You will need to provide a meal for around 20 people.

Church Mouse

December Servant Opportunities:

Ongoing Activities:

Our Daily Bread Contributors

Youth Group – Sundays at 5:30-7:00 pm

Altar Flower Sponsors

Prayer Breakfast – Thursdays at 8:00-9:30 am

Meals for the Sunday Youth Group

Saturday Men's Group – Saturdays at 8:00-9:00 am

AV & Sound Board - all three services

Men's Basketball League – Mondays – 7:00 pm

Children's Sunday School & Nursery

Volleyball – Thursdays – 6:30 pm

Chair of Missions Committee

Women's Bible Study – Wednesdays - 10:00 am

Coffee Fellowship

Upcoming Activities:

Greeters

New Member class – Early 2026

I am ever vigilant to keep everyone informed of all the activities that are happening here at Bethlehem Church. As I look ahead, beyond December, before we all know it, it will be 2026.. 'Keep praying, my church friends'. Keep praying for all the exciting things that that are, and will be happening in the future within this family of believers that call Bethlehem Church home.

Love, Charity (the Church Mouse)

Life Under the Church Tower

WWW.GOODRIDGEFREEDOMCENTER.ORG
William C Goodridge
FREEDOM CENTER & UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM

2025
Festival of
TREES

EXHIBIT
OPENING
FIRST
FRIDAY
DEC. 5TH
4PM - 8PM

OTHER EXHIBIT DATES & HOURS
DEC. 6, 10, 13, 17, AND 20TH.
11AM - 4PM

LOCATION:
123 E. PHILADELPHIA ST. YORK, PA 17401
*TOURS DO NOT NEED TO BE SCHEDULED.

Explore
YORK
History & Culture Center

Crispus
Attucks
York
History & Culture Center

Thank you so much to everyone who shared the love of Christ by providing packed Operation Christmas Child boxes! What an awesome way to give of ourselves so that children around the world may know Jesus Christ! A total of 212 boxes were delivered to their next location! From there they will be taken to the distribution center in North Carolina. Keep praying for our boxes to make a difference in the lives of the children who receive them!



Life Under the Church Tower

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Friday December 5th

6:30 PM

New Fellowship Hall

The Children's Ministry is
hosting a

Family Night full of
FRIENDS * FUN * PRIZES

Please RSVP by Sunday
December 1st

Life Under the Clock Tower

The Card Ladies



A group of ladies in the church used to gather monthly to create greeting cards, a hobby they enjoy. Unfortunately, the pandemic disrupted their gatherings. Gerry Tyson suggested they send cards to the church's shut-ins.

The ladies compiled a list of homebound members and began sending cards throughout the year. These thoughtful notes have become a cherished reminder that, even when someone can't be with us in person, they are still deeply loved and remembered by their church family.

Some recipients have moved to be closer to family, but Bethlehem remains their church home. Each card they receive is a gentle touch from the community they still hold dear.

This simple act of kindness continues to bring joy to both the senders and the recipients—proof that even the smallest gestures can carry the biggest blessings.

Emmanuel's Closet

is collecting selected donations of food. .

December if you can help, we're in need of the following:

Bisquick	Dinner kits – tacos, helper
Paper towels	Pancake syrup
Beverages - juices	Cereal

Please mark donations for Emmanuel's Closet and drop them off near the mailboxes. We appreciate your continued support.

Thanks, Teri Stacey 717-309-3716 or Teri.Stacey@metso.com

Life Under the Clock Tower

Bethlehem Church Christmas Dinner

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st 5:00 PM

ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW DINNER

All are welcome to this annual celebration... all ages, all connections.

Meat, beverages, and dinner rolls will be provided.

Persons whose last name begins with initials A through I are asked to bring an ample Dessert to be shared.

Persons whose last name begins with initial J through S are asked to bring an ample Salad or cold dish to be shared.

Persons whose last name begins with initial T through Z are asked to bring an ample Vegetable or hot dish to be shared.

Help for the dinner is requested in the following ways:

Kitchen Help (*before the dinner*)

Clean-up (*after the dinner*)

If you are willing to help, please indicate on the registration slip below.

Please return the registration slip to the

Network Table in Wesley Hall by Sunday, December 14th.

There is no charge for the dinner, however we do need to know the number attending to plan accordingly

Name _____ # Attending _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

____ I/We will be able to help in the following way:

- ☐ Kitchen Help before the dinner
- ☐ Clean-Up after the dinner

Life Under the Church Tower

Christmas *Cantata*

Sunday December 21st
10:30AM



Life Under the Church Tower

We are looking for persons or couples who would be willing to greet one Sunday before the 10:30AM service. Serving time would begin at 10AM at the front of the church. Contact Palmer Poff at 717-244-4240 if you would be willing to serve in this meaningful ministry of welcoming members and visitors to our wonderful church.

Thank you to Greg & Stephanie Bowers, Don & Marsha Strine, Mike & Linda Letts, Mike & Karen Snyder, Kim Jones, and Deb Raver for being greeters during the month of November.



Altar Flower Sponsors needed

What a great way to honor a loved one and glorify God. Reserve your spots now!

Cost is now \$50.

Please contact Wendy Pichler
717-578-6747 for more

BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB

THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

BY MELODY CARLSON

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2



Life Under the Church Tower

Prayer Breakfast

Join us every Thursday morning from
8AM -9:30AM at Two Brothers Family
Restaurant in York for a time of
fellowship, food and scripture.

Join us, all are welcome!

No Meeting on 11/28

Saturday Men's Group Meeting



When: Saturdays

Where: Common Grounds Café

Time: 8:00 – 9:00am

Calling **all** men of Bethlehem to a meeting of fellowship, discussions of subjects to enrich our understanding of the Word of God and any personal subjects, as needed, related to individual subjects. Questions?? Contact:

Troy Harrold at trharrold@comcast.net Or

Keith Metzel at sanctuarysound2015@gmail.com



THE UPWARD 2026 SEASON IS COMING!

BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING SIGNUPS ARE NOW OPEN.

EARLY REGISTRATION - \$65 - UNTIL NOVEMBER 30TH

REGISTRATION - \$80 - DECEMBER 1ST - DECEMBER 31ST

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE TO SIGN UP FOR UPWARD
SPORTS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Life Under the Church Tower

Holiday CONCERT SERIES

Piano Open House with Tamie Fisher

Sunday, December 7 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Calypso Harp Duo

Sunday, December 14th 4:00 PM

Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Presents *Sing a Song of Christmas*

Sunday, Dec 21st 10:30 AM

Bethlehem Church

109 E Main St, Dallastown, PA

All events are FREE and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services

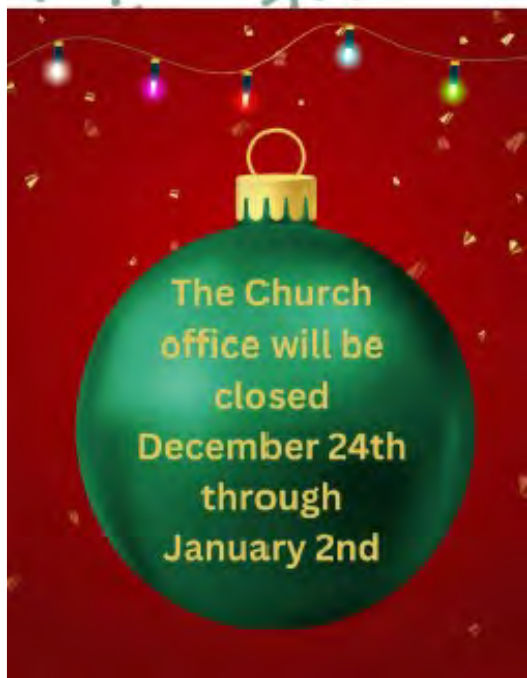
4:00PM Children's Service

7:30PM Contemporary Service

10:30PM Traditional Service



Life Under the Clock Tower



NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Starting January 5, 2026

Monday - Thursday
9am-3pm

Closed on Fridays



Life Under the Clock Tower

"Mission Central"



- Chap Stick
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Gallon Size Ziploc Bags
- Air Freshener (4-9 oz non-aerosol spray)
- Liquid Concentrate Household cleaner (16-40oz not spray)
- New Children's socks & Underwear

This month's most-needed donations include:

- New or gently used coats
- Gloves & Hats
- 50-60" blankets
- Scouring pads



Deadline for submissions for January Newsletter is December 15th. Please email submissions to office@gotobethlehem.org

Life Under the Clock Tower

With winter now upon us, please remember to check for church closures should there be inclement weather.

Bethlehem Church closures will appear on our Facebook page, website, and the following:

FOX43

ABC27

CBS21



Closures will also be announced
on radio FM 103.3

Life Under the Clock Tower



Thank you does not even begin to express how much I appreciate all the wonderful people that helped to make Christmas in Dallastown a success this year. We had over 40 people that helped to set up and organize before the event, volunteer throughout the church during the day, be parking lot attendants, and be the cleanup crew, all of which helped to make this event run smooth. With an event this size, we could not do it without every single one of you.



Again, Thank you so very much! Julie Spyker

The Altar and Flower Guild would like to extend over whelming THANK YOU, to the 45 Volunteers who contributed their endless amount time over 375 Hours over the past 5 days for Decorating for the Christmas Advent Season, Sanctuary, Wesley Hall, New Fellowship Hall, Café, Old Fellowship Hall and Narthex and Exterior. This was not possible without your help and support, THANK YOU - WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

THE ALTAR AND FLOWER GUILD



Common Grounds Café



Lunch Bunch will be meeting
Tuesday Dec. 16 noon
@ Rivertown Restaurant

Sign up at the network table or contact
Margaret Malehorn at 717-266-0352

December Calendar

	1-Monday 9 am PS Enrichment 6:30 F 4-H Meeting 6:30pm Trustees 7pm Men's Basketball	2-Tuesday 10am Book Club 6:30pm Mission 7pm AA	3-Wednesday 10am Women's Bible 7:15pm Choir	4-Thursday 8am- Prayer Breakfast 6:30pm Small Life Group 6:30pm Volleyball 6:30pm Leadership Council 6:30 Bell Socialization	5-Friday	6-Saturday 8am Men's Group 10am Basketball-Arjay 11am Christmas Party 4pm Mission Setup 6pm AA
7-Sunday 11:30 Make A Wish 3pm Piano Open House 5:30pm Youth Group	8-Monday 8am Life Line Screening 9am PS Enrichment 1pm Sisters in Christ 7pm Men's Basketball	9-Tuesday 9am Staff meeting 6:30pm Lions Club 6:30 Discipleship 7pm AA	10-Wednesday 10am Women's Bible 7:15pm Choir	11-Thursday 8am Prayer Breakfast 9am Preschool gym 6:30pm Volleyball	12-Friday 9am Preschool Gym	13-Saturday 8am Men's Group 6pm AA
14-Sunday 4pm Harp Open House 5:30pm Youth Group	15-Monday 6:30pm Prayer Shawl 7pm Men's Basketball	16-Tuesday 11am Lunch Bunch 7pm AA	17-Wednesday 9am Preschool Gingerbread Day 10am Women's Bible 3pm Preschool setup 7:15pm Choir	18-Thursday 8am Prayer Breakfast 9am Preschool Christmas 9am Preschool Celebration 6pm Volleyball	19-Friday	20-Saturday 8am Men's Group 6pm AA
21-Sunday 5pm Christmas Dinner	22-Monday	23-Tuesday 7pm AA	24-Wednesday Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm Family Service 7:30pm Contemporary 10:30pm Candlelight	25-Thursday 11am Christmas Day Meal 	26-Friday	27-Saturday 12pm Pitzer Party 6pm AA
28-Sunday 5:30pm Youth Group	29-Monday	30-Tuesday 7pm AA	31-Wednesday	