

Thoughts from the Pastor

The holidays are over and we have started a new year. The year seems to have gone by quickly. Everyone at church has been busy reaching out to people in the neighborhood. They have opened an outdoor food pantry to serve those in the neighborhood who are finding it difficult to have enough food for their families. We had 3 trees this season to benefit other ministries in the city; one tree for Expectations Women's Center that serves pregnant women, one for Family Promise that serves homeless families, and Angel Tree that serves children who have a parent incarcerated. The church family is very generous. They packed gift bags for shut-ins and delivered them and sent gift cards to our students in college. The congregation has so many ways they show the Love of Christ to one another and to others. I am truly blessed to be your pastor.

As the new year begins I know we will all be blessed by the work that is being planned. Reaching others with the Love of Christ is the focus of all of you. Christ has told us to love God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Surley this congregation does that.

The church council has elected one new member, Richard Black. I am sure he will be a positive addition to the ruling body of the church. We welcome him to our leadership. This year the lines in the parking lot were repainted, the trees at the back edge of the parking lot were trimmed, the dead tree was removed from the front of the parking lot, the area behind the sign was cleaned up, shrubs and trees were trimmed, and the building in that area was cleaned and washed down.

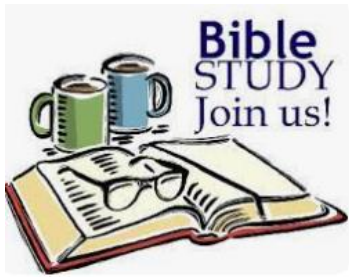
Now that winter is here the outside work has ended for the year. I'm sure there will be more in the spring.

May this new year be filled with grace and peace.

Pastor Ann

The Law is rules on a page – Grace is a voice.

**Please note that if Williamsport school district is closed or delayed
due to weather so is the church office.**



Bible Study:

Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 3:00 PM in the choir room on the second floor of the church. Please plan to join us as we study God's word. If you have any questions, please give Larry Keller a call.

UNITED WOMEN in FAITH

Thank you for every class and individual who contributed for our college students Thanksgiving treat. Also, thanks to Ressie and Mary who made the Christmas Party on December 7th so special.

<p>January</p> <p>January 9, Tuesday at 2:00 PM Women of the Bible in Quilts Presented By: Deb DeMarte & Kay Rhinehart Devotions: Nancy Rupert</p> <p>January 21, Sunday Birthday Party, everyone is invited Time: Right after church (Light Luncheon) Presented By: UWF Hostesses: Kay Rhinehart & Mary Francis Kid's & Adult Games: Breanna & Michaela Free Back-ups: Larry & Kay Rhinehart</p>	<p>February</p> <p>February 13, Tuesday at 2:00 PM Call to Prayer & Self Denial Leader: Pastor Ann Runnels Devotions: Debbie DeMarte Hostess: Sue Berry & Marlis Erlanson</p> <p>February 24, Saturday Ex. Committee of District UWF Meet in Choir Room Light Refreshments</p>
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The Master's Crafters:

- Monday, January 15 at 2:00 PM Meeting in the choir room.
- Monday, February 12 at 2:00 PM Meeting in the choir room.



Upcoming Book Club Meetings:



- Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM discussing Fearless and The Noel Letters by Richard Paul Evans
- Thursday, February 29 at 7:00 PM, discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Mark your calendars Saturday, January 27 at 6 PM there will be a Wild Game Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited; please join us for this yearly dinner.





Hello Friends!

Well here it is! The holiday season snuck right up on me! I don't know about you but the year seemed to fly right by. Being thankful is the theme of November and we are incredibly thankful for the support of our friends this year.

We have provided over 400 coats in the last three months. All coats have been donated from the community and size 12 boys coats have been requested more than any other size this year. Last month we served 300 individuals in our food pantry which works out to around 2,700 meals. The average family size served was 6 with at least one working adult in the household. The rise in food prices has created food insecurity for so many.

Our shelter has also been very busy. We provided 5000 bed nights from June to November. That includes transitional housing as well as our shelter.

Our purchase of our building complex was complete last October, and renovations continue to make the building safe for those coming for assistance and those working in the building. We received a very generous grant from First Community Foundation Partnership for \$100,000 for renovations and development. We are so grateful for their belief in our mission.

We have partnered with AmeriCorps this year for a very hard-working volunteer, Roxanna. We are glad to have her here.

Speaking of new hires, we have a new case manager, Holly Chapman, CPRP. Holly was hired in June and comes to us from working in a psych rehab for many years as a case manager.

As always, I am thankful for your support of Family Promise. Gratitude is a way of life here. Every night we provide to a child means they are warm, safe and fed. It is your support that allows that to happen.

Read on for a few upcoming events and our current wish list.

Blessings,
Jenny

We are thankful to announce Debbie Keller and Donna Haag are Coordinating St. Paul-Calvary's Family Promise team. Our congregation has made an impactable difference in the lives of the homeless families by praying, providing meals for 5 host weeks, giving donations of clothing, blankets and contributions. In addition to our support as Church Partners, Family Promise operates a Homeless Prevention program, to provide:

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|---|------------------------|
| 1.) Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Training | 4.) Life Skill Classes |
| 2.) Parenting, co-dependency training | 5.) Resume preparation |
| 3.) Financial Match Program and much more | 6.) Case Management |

St. Paul-Calvary has been a committed "Church Partner" from the beginning of Family Promise of Lycoming County. Looking ahead into 2024, there is more to be done. Our 1st opportunity to host families at the Day center will be February 11-17, 2024.

Thank you for your generous support!

Mission Team:

Counting our Blessings!

Thank you for blessing 12 families with our Harvest Food Box. Our gift included a Thanksgiving Prayer, an invitation to join our fellowship, a Weis Market gift card for their choice of meat and food for their family meal. I met each family and they were very grateful for your generosity!



- We began a new Ministry in November by opening an **Outdoor Food Pantry**. The pantry cupboard is open 24 hours a day and is located on the back porch of the church, facing Scott Street. The food is offered to anyone, a poster in the cupboard reads; *Please help yourself to foods you will use.*
- Volunteers are restocking the food as the inventory is depleted. The pantry cupboard contains just a few each of soup, beans, cereal, Taco kits, spaghetti, pasta sauce, snacks, fruit and canned vegetables.

Would you like to make a food donation? We are accepting shelf stable foods that are within the sell by date. i.e. Hamburger Helper, Microwave Mac and Cheese bowls, Ramen Noodles or Applesauce Cups. No fresh or frozen products. Please place your donation in the basket labeled "Outdoor Pantry" next to the Elevator door on the ground level.

**Thank you in advance for your support to share
with our neighbors!**

CHURCH COUNCIL News:

- Church Council will meet Monday, January 15 at 2:00 PM & Monday, February, 19 at 2:00 PM.

Church Council		
Yvonne Dockey	John German (Chair)	Kay Rhinehart
Sylvia Miller	Deb Keller	Donna Haag
Richard Black	Larry Rhinehart	Mary Francis
Sue Girton	Larry Keller	Nancy Rupert

Finance News:

Audit: All books to be audited for 2023 should be in the church office by Sunday, February 4, 2024. Audit will take place on Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00 AM. The records will be ready for pickup on **Sunday, February 19, 2024.** Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

**FYI Girl Scouts are meeting every Monday at 5:00 PM
in the Girl Scout room.**

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Happy New Years	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	9 2:00 PM UWF Meeting	10 3:00 PM Bible Study	11	12	13
14	15 2:00 PM Church Council 2:00 PM Master's Crafters 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	16	17 3:00 PM Bible Study	18 7:00 PM Book Club	19	20
21 Everybody's Birthday Party after church	22 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	23	24 3:00 PM Bible Study	25	26	27 6:00 PM Wild Game Dinner
28	29 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	30	31 3:00 PM Bible Study			

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	6	7 3:00 PM Bible Study	8	9	10
11	12 9:00 AM Audit 2:00 PM Master's Crafters 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	13 9:00 AM Audit 2:00 PM UWF Meeting	14 3:00 PM Bible Study	15 9:00 AM Evangel deadline	16	17
Family Promise Host Week						
18	19 2:00 PM Church Council 5:00 PM Girl Scouts	20	21 3:00 PM Bible Study	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 3:00 PM Bible Study	29 7:00 PM Book Club		