Ackermanville United Methodist Church



The Friendly Flyer

November - December, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk.....



Dear friends,

I'll admit I sat down to write this note with no clear idea of what to say. The standard pastoral playbook for November and December is well-worn: either you write a gentle lament about the commercialization of Christmas, or you offer earnest advice on how to "find quiet stillness" during the six busiest weeks of the calendar year. Neither feels particularly honest, and frankly the world doesn't need one more repetition of that.

What actually sticks in my mind as the weather turns is the Salvation Army Appeal adverts that were a fixture of the telly every winter when I was growing up in the UK. The background sound of a brass band playing mournful renditions of Christmas carols as uniformed Officers handed out soup and blankets to the homeless, and a soft voice reminded us how many would be spending the winter out on the streets. In the run-up to Christmas the Sallies would be out fundraising in full force: brass bands, mailers, the whole production. Here in America the costume changes: red kettles on cold street corners, and not a brass band in sight. I've never found them sentimental or cloying. They're a reminder that for many people Christmas is a season not of hope and light but of loneliness and hypothermia.

That's the plain reality underneath the bells and the seasonal marketing: winter is hard, heating is expensive, and poverty doesn't take time off for the holidays.

Coming in as your new pastor in July, I arrived in the easy months - long daylight and a house still full of boxes. Stepping into my first late autumn and winter with you is a different matter. This is the season where faith stops being an abstract Sunday morning conversation and turns into logistics: who needs a hot meal, who's staring down an oil bill, which coats are going into the bins, and whether the church steps are salted before 8:00 AM.

Looking after one another isn't seasonal decor we haul out of the attic to give ourselves a warm glow before Christmas dinner. It's just the baseline work of being the church.

So if you have the bandwidth, the cash, or the muscle to spare in the weeks ahead, put it to work here, or wherever the need is right in front of you. And if you're heading into this season on an empty tank - whether that's financial, physical, or just sheer exhaustion - remember that the table is already set. You don't have to earn your place at it.

Looking forward to walking through my first winter here alongside you.

Blessings,
Steve

Church News

The Charge Church Conference will be held on Saturday, November 7 in our church at 12 PM.

Decorate the Church - The men and women of the church will meet to clean and decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas Season on Saturday, November 28 at 8:30 AM. *Join us!*

Christmas Poinsettia Sale
Each year, our sanctuary comes alive with the beauty of poinsettias, filling our hearts with joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ. You are invited to donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones. Each plant is $15 for a 6.5" red pot with 6-8 blooms. You are welcome to take yours home after the Christmas Eve service. The deadline to order is November 29. Please complete the insert form and return with payment to Barry or Kay.

Coffee Hour
The first Sunday of every month we meet in Young Hall for our Coffee Hour. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us in the social hall for coffee and fellowship after Sunday worship on December 6 with cookies and milk too.

Holiday Hymn Sing on December 13 for our worship service at 10:30 AM.

Fall Bible Study will be held every Wednesday evening beginning October 28 through December 10 at 6:30 pm and every Thursday morning at 9:30 am for 6 weeks leading up to the Advent Season. Pastor Steve will lead the Bible Study program.

Anniversary Sunday – Mark your calendars for our annual Thanksgiving Feast on Sunday, November 8 after our worship service at 11:30 AM.

Christmas Cookie Walk
on Saturday, December 12
from 9 AM to 11AM.
$18 large and $12 small containers.
Come and walk through the tables of delicious cookies and fill your box.
Pre-orders are taken. Due by Dec 9th.
We will be looking for volunteers to help bake and prepare boxes.

Holiday Open House
on Sunday, December 13
from 4 to 5 PM.
Join us for music, crafts & fellowship.





PUMP --Portland-Upper Mt. Bethel Food Pantry

The Food Pantry needs our help. If you will please bring your donation of food or paper goods and place them in the bins in the narthex, in the hallway outside of Young Hall, and an extra collection bin in the vestibule. We take all food to PUMP on the third Monday of the month. At this time they are in need of: cereal, rice, noodles, gravy, veggies, potatoes, fruits, soups. *Thank you!*



WEIS MARKETS:

Please remember to keep bringing in your grocery receipts. Thanks!

HELP WANTED: Do you have some spare time and talents to share with your church? Please consider volunteering.

Sign-up sheets are available at both entrances. Include your name, phone number and email address. Please hand your sheet to Sue Martin. *Thank you!*

Church EVENTS

For January & February 2027

Share God's Love

Help share God's love with family, friends and neighbors for Valentine's Day with a carnation. Orders need to be received the Sunday before and can be picked up in Young Hall. Carnations will be a nice assortment of mixed colors.

More information to follow.

Soup Bowl Saturday

Tentative for February 6, 2027

from 5 – 7:30 PM

It's time for our annual fundraising event! Enjoy homemade soup, bread, desserts followed by a tricky tray and silent auction.

Tickets will be available for a donation.

More information to follow.

Join us for some "soup-er" fun!

2027 Envelopes will be ready for you to pick up in the vestibule starting the beginning of the New Year.





- The task of the Ushers/Greeters is very important to the life of the congregation. They are the first contact any member or visitor has with AUMC. That first impression is very important and sets the tone for how people are likely to experience worship. Thank you for serving Christ in this way.
- Because this is so important, please be aware of the following things:
- As you greet people, try not to engage in extended conversations with friends and family. This may prevent you from being aware of a new face.
- Introduce yourself – even if the person you're greeting is a member of the congregation. That person may not know your name. If you think it's a member but do not know that person's name say something like: "I'm sorry, I don't have a name to go with your face."
- If a visitor comes, ask if you may help them find a seat, or introduce them to someone with whom they may sit during the worship service. Let them know where they can find the restrooms. Please remember to tell the Pastor about the visitor (especially their name).
- Remember, your job does not end at the beginning of the Prelude. Remain near the doors until the first hymn starts. That way if someone is running late they don't have to hunt for a bulletin. If the sanctuary is crowded, help them find a seat.
- Remind congregation to fill out prayer request cards as soon as possible, as they will be collected during the first hymn.
- Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle while singing the first hymn and give them to the pastor. If you hold up the prayer request cards with both of your hands, it will be helpful for the congregation to know that you are collecting the prayer request cards.
- Do not shut either set of inner doors. Closed doors say: "You are not welcome!"
- When it's time to take the offering, please stand up and be ready at the back of the sanctuary before the music starts. It's okay to get up while the Pastor is introducing the offering time.
- Come forward and receive the offering plates from the Pastor.
- Start down the center aisle. Once at the back of the sanctuary walk to the front of the outside aisles and move towards the back.
- Wait at the end of the center aisle until the Doxology begins and then walk up the center aisle and hand the plates to the Pastor.
- Stay at the altar rail until after the Offertory Prayer (bring a bulletin with you so you may pray as well) and then return to your seats at the close of the prayer.

Slate Belt Free Community Meals

1st Sunday of every month:
East Bangor United Methodist
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **610-588-4453**

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3rd Sunday of every month:
Ackermanville United Methodist
1410 Ackermanville Rd., Bangor
3:00 pm 4:30 pm 610-588-7818

Please share this information so that those who are in need can find a free meal.
If there is any doubt, please call the respective churches.

Sunday Worship Helpers

Would you like to be a counter? Or would you like to become a greeter/usher? It's easy! Just sign up, or put a note in the offering plate, or let Charleen know. We would love for new people to get involved in these important aspects of the church.

Thank you.

Prayer List

Please help us keep the prayer list up to date. If you would like someone to go on the prayer list, or removed from it, please use a prayer request card found in the pews or email the church at ackermanvilleumc@gmail.com

Thank You.

Online Giving Option #1

www.ackermanvilleumc.org/donate

DONATE to Ackermanville UMC by using our "Online Giving" link on our website. You can make a one-time donation, or set up regular ("recurring") giving with this link. MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express are accepted. Click on the **"Donate"** tab in the bottom left, then click on the green **"Make a Donation"** button on the lower left.

Online Giving Option #2

https://aumc.churchtrac.com/give

Enter your email address and a password to create an account to give a donation using a credit card.

Thank you!
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Special Envelopes

If you have a special offering/donation (Love Fund, Community Meal, Memorial Fund, etc.) please put it in an envelope (blue & white envelopes available in pews), and list your name and what you are donating to, on the envelope, so we can give you credit at the end of the year. *Thank you.*



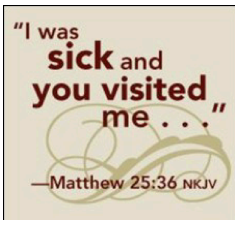


Sponsoring Bulletins and Flowers

Sponsoring altar flowers is a simple way to glorify God and beautify the altar. They can be placed in honor of someone, in memory of someone, in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, or other milestone, or just to give thanks for God's blessings. Your sponsorship and dedication will be printed in the bulletin for that Sunday. The same goes for sponsoring bulletins. (Please see page 6)
Please consider signing up. If sponsoring flowers, call Albanese Florist **(610-588-0441)** and place an order with them under the Ackermanville UMC account. Place the cost of flowers (or bulletins) in the offering plate on Sunday in a separate envelope, designating that it's for the cost of the flowers or bulletins. *Thank you.*

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Pastoral Care



Please let Pastor Steve know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. He would love to support you and your family with a visit. He depends on you to share the information of which hospital the loved one is in. Please also let Pastor Steve know of any other pastoral needs. The church phone number is 610-588-7818. The parsonage number is 610-452-2699. You can reach him by email: stephen.whitehead88**@gmail.com**. If you do not reach him, please leave a message. *Thank you.*

Birthdays

November

2 – Andrea Lane
4 – Beverly Hopstetter
4 – Mary Hawes
6 – Janice Roberts
9 – Joshua Yetter
10 – Diane Richards
10 – Dee Kraemer
19 – Steve Beck
19 - Nancy Berger
29– Bill Bright

December

2 – Lindsey Ginther
3 – Karen Parry
13 – Louise Labar
15 – Josh Riggs
16 – Donna Hopstetter
16 – Meagan Walton
17 – Nadine Hughes
21 – Kay Young
25 – Holly Sussick
27 – Irene Fulmer
28 – Tyler Brescancine
28 – Jason Ginther



Anniversaries

November

1 - Lindsey & Jason Ginther
14 – Holly & Joel Sussick
25 – Alenda & Charles Gardner
27 – Donna & Joe Carcione

December

21 – Charleen & Donald Hutchison
23 – Sherry & Bruce Ott

Ackermanville United Methodist Church

1410 Ackermanville Road
Bangor PA 18013
610-588-7818
ackermanvilleumc@gmail.com

Mission Statement:

Growing in Faith by sharing God's Love

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Whitehead
Cell: 267-423-0822
Parsonage Phone: 610-452-2699
Email: *stephen.whitehead88@gmail.com*

Church School Superintendent	Jeff Sandercock
Choir Director	Del Roberts
Lay Leader	Barry Young
Organist	Cindy Doll
The Ministers	All the Congregation



Coffee Hour List

Nov 8	Anniversary Sunday with Thanksgiving Feast
Dec 6	Everyone please bring in 2 dozen cookies

Greeters & Ushers

Nov 1	Bob Dailey / Jeff Sandercock
Nov 8	Elizabeth Scott / Karla Lane
Nov 15	Sherry Darr / Del Roberts
Nov 22	Nancy Frantz / Gail Frantz
Nov 29	Jon Kraemer / Del Roberts
Dec 6	Elizabeth Scott / Karla Lane
Dec 13	Kay & Pete Nell
Dec 20	Sherry Darr / Del Roberts
Dec 24	Nancy Frantz / Gail Frantz
Dec 27	Jon Kraemer / Del Roberts

Church Office Hours

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
10 AM to 1 PM
Church Secretary: Charleen Hutchison
Phone: 610-588-7818
Email: **ackermanvilleumc@gmail.com**

All Sunday worship services are live streamed via ZOOM.
An email is sent every Friday with the ZOOM details.
{Please contact the office to be added to the list.}



If you would like to **sponsor a Sunday bulletin**

in honor / memory of a loved one please call

Bill Ruggiero at 610-863-6297. The cost is $10.



NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Oct 31
						Daylight Savings Time Ends
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
All Saints Sunday / Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM Fall Bible Study 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM	Fall Bible Study 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM	**Charge Conference** In Youngs Hall 12 PM
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
Anniversary Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM **Thanksgiving Feast,** 11:30 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM Fall Bible Study 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM	Fall Bible Study 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM	
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
25th Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Community Meal, 3 PM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM Fall Bible Study 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM	Fall Bible Study 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM	
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
Christ the King Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 2 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church office Closed for Holiday	Men & Women Clean up & Decorate Church 8:30 AM
29 1st Sunday of Advent, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM	**30** Church Office Closed (tentative)					

DECEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Church Office 10 AM – 2 PM Fall Bible Study 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM	Fall Bible Study 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 2 PM	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2nd Sunday Of Advent / Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Coffee Hour, 11:30 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM Fall Bible Study 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM Cookie Walk Pre-orders Are due	Fall Bible Study 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM Newsletter Deadline For Jan/Feb edition	Christmas Cookie Walk 9 AM – 11 AM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3rd Sunday Of Advent Worship, w/ Hymn Sing 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Holiday Open House 4 – 5 PM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4th Sunday Of Advent Worship, 10:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Community Meal, 3 PM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM - 1 PM	Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 PM (Tentative time)		
27	28	29	30	31	January 1	
1st Sunday of Christmas Worship, 10:30 AM	Church Office 10 AM – 1 PM		Church Office 10 AM - 1 PM (tentative)	New Year's Eve	Happy New Year 2027!!	

Important update from the Board of Trustees:

Thank you to all the members that were able to attend our congregational meeting held Sunday October 18th, following worship. If you were unable to attend please find below the information that was shared during this meeting.

The past 7 years the board of trustees have been working hard behind the scenes. We understand your concerns about the appearance of our church building.

Here is the timeline and events shared with the congregation:
-Winter of 2019- Erchlich informed us we have bats again in our belfry.
-Before we could gather all our estimates to make a decision on how to tend to the bats, COVID-19 was at our door. The board had to adjust our attention to the safety of the church at that time.
-2023 we resumed our attention to our bat issue. We had Pocono Wildlife Control LLC come and do a full evaluation of the church buildings. In that evaluation they confirmed the church build has bats but the Young Hall/Sunday school building did not. The work needed to be done to start the removal of the bats was to install :one-way doors (allow bats to fly out but not back in, screening of all gable vents with ½" hardware cloth, ridge guard on the roof ridge vent, silicone sealing of all gaps ¼"-½" on steeple, tower, chimney chases, roof boots, drip edge, fascia, soffit and siding, fastening all loose fascia, soffit and siding with exterior screws and install wildlife cages over all exterior hood vents. The slate roof of the steeple needed to be replaced with a shingle roof to be the final piece of sealing off the access for the bats to prevent them from coming back and to allow us to then have the attic and steeple professionally cleaned. The estimate given from Pocono Wildlife Control was $50,740.00 and an estimate to remove the slate roof and put a shingle roof on the estimate was $11,000. Both these estimates were given in 2023.

The board regrouped after getting these estimates. The board decided to look into bringing the steeple down to just below the bell and putting a hip roof on. Our thought with removing the bell was to then put it down in landscaping in front of the church.

From that point to the present I have met with multiple contractors, architects and business trade people about this project. Some didn't want to touch the job, while others acted interested and then never pursued our project more. We wanted to find someone who could do the whole job to help keep the cost down with each contractor needing to charge us for a lift/crane type machinery.

From dealing with a handful of contractors coming to evaluate our project we learned:
-We have extensive water damage throughout our steeple and attic
-Which is causing structural damage to our steeple
-Which is putting stress on our parts of the church, for example the cracking of our ceiling.

We have found a local contractor T. Mac Builders, LLC who has given us an estimated cost for our steeple project. In their proposal it includes removal of the steeple (slowly there is a lot of weight on the top of the steeple and you have to slowly release the pressure it is under), Structural roof repair

(includes repair/ replacement of 10’ existing ridge beam/ridge, ceiling joists, roof rafters and any other reframing needed), Roof sheathing (remove damaged sheathing and sheath for the opening of the steeple), Roofing (removing existing material in designated area and connect existing roofing with new to provide a weather tight installation), Interior Ceiling & Drywall repairs (removal of damaged drywall, secure loose drywall and patch, tape, finish, sand, prime and repaint affected areas), Stained Glass Windows Exterior Repairs (Scrape loose paint, replace rotted wood, prepare, prime and repaint), Front Porch Exterior Repairs (Scrape loose paint, replace rooted wood, prepare repaired, prime and repaint affected areas) Clean up (removal of construction debris)
With all of this the estimated cost is $110,736.00 (this number could change once the work gets started and things get uncovered that could not be seen before) The steeple would be removed and not rebuilt at this time.

Before we can have this work done we need to have the attic and steeple cleaned to a workable environment for the construction crew. This will need to be done right before the work is to be started because we are unable to seal the steeple/attic space to get the bats removed first. So this cleaning is step one. We received an estimate from PuroClean of Stroudsburg and Saylorsburg. The estimate to have this work done is $2,749.83. Once all the work is completed and we have received confirmation the bats have left we can then schedule for the final cleaning to be done. Let me stop here and ask for any questions about the work only please.

So we are looking at an estimated cost of $123,000 (plus) I know these are large numbers to wrap your head around. I want to share with you how amazing you all are over the past two years. For 2025 our budgeted income was $115,995 and guest how much came in… $128,859! Our expenses for 2025 we budgeted $121,046 and we spent $123,911. For 2026 so far we budgeted for income $104,579 and actually received $114,667!! Our budgeted expenses for 2026 $104,456 what we have spent $105,987. The year is not over yet and these numbers will change with upcoming fundraisers and holidays.

Did you know that our church needs to bring in $2,585 a week to make our budget?
Remember that loan we have from what was still owed from the Sunday school addition and the repairs we did at the parsonage. We still owe $44,500 on that loan.

This is where we need the help of our congregation and community. This may sound like an unreachable expense for us to reach, but if we do not address this now we will have much bigger issues to deal with. We have a team of people working on ways to raise funds and looking into local grants to help fund this expense.

We do have some funds already starting to form to start us off! We have already started collecting donations from our work zone fund, plus other donations to kick off our *“Bats out Blessings in”* fundraiser with $18,000. Starting next week we will have special envelopes for you to give if you are able. Thank you for helping in preserving AUMC for generations to come!

All questions can be directed to:
Holly Sussick, Chad Roberts, Barry Mueller, William Bright, Robert Daley, and Greg Martin

AUMC Anniversary Committee

Ackermanville United Methodist Church

2026 Christmas Poinsettias



6.5” Pots with 6-8 Blooms
Red Flowers
$15.00 each

In Honor / Memory of: (please circle one)

_____

In Honor / Memory of: (please circle one)

_____

Requested by: _____

$15.00 each X _____ (number purchased) = _____

Submit completed form and payment to Barry or Kay Young.

Last day to order is November 29, 2026.

Pay by Cash or Checks Payable to AUMC.