

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH (PCA)
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 1, 2019 – 8:15 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Nun komm der Heiden Heiland” (BWV 599) J.S. Bach
(Come, Savior of the Nations)
“Noel Etranger” L.C. Daquin

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 148*)

ALL: Praise the LORD from the heavens
ONE: Praise him in the heights!
ALL: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!
ONE: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
ALL: Princes and all rulers of the earth!
ONE: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
ONE: For his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.
ALL: Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn #196

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

Today we begin the advent celebration that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation came into existence. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh. We are amazed at the miracle of creation and we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. In light of your mighty acts, forgive us for our feeble faith and for our earthbound thoughts. Thank you for the forgiveness that Jesus came to bring, for we ask it in His mighty name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) “Lord Have Mercy upon Us”

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

*APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**
(1 or universal)

LIGHTING OF THE PROPHECY CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 9:6-18 Page #945

SERMON “Objection!” (Part 1) Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “I Wonder as I Wander” C. Callahan

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Father in heaven, your lovingkindness to us is greater than we could ever
ask or imagine. Please receive these gifts as evidence of your power
working within us and through us, that you might receive the glory. Amen**

COMMUNION HYMN “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” Hymn #230

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN “Not What My Hands Have Done” Hymn #461

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE Choral Fantasy on 'Vom Himmel hoch' J. Pachelbel

(Should you be moved to respond to a special musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

**THE PURPOSE OF ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH,
“THE BEACON ON THE HILL”
IS**

TO KNOW Jesus, the light of the world,

*John 8:12 “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not
walk in darkness,
but will have the Light of life.”*

TO GROW together as His followers, and

*1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood
of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

TO SHOW His light to the world.

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH (PCA)
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 1, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.

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PIANO PRELUDE – *Let us quiet our hearts as we silently prepare to worship*

GATHERING (Congregation seated)
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Hymn #196

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

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From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.** (1 or universal)

LIGHTING OF THE PROPHECY CANDLE

CHILDREN’S SONG – (Children ages 4-7 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 9:6-18

Page #945

SERMON

“Objection!” (Part 1)

Dr. Timothy Witmer

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SESSION

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."*

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

Communion
Today 8:15 am Early Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Youth Group
Monday 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Tuesday 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Global Outreach Committee Mtg
Wednesday 2:30 pm Shut-in Gift Delivery
6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
Thursday 6:45 pm Choir
Saturday 8:00-11:00 Children's Breakfast on Main
NO Men's Breakfast this month

FUTURE EVENTS...

Sunday 12/08 6:00 pm Youth Group
Wednesday 12/11 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 12/12 6:45 pm Choir
Saturday 12/14 5:30 pm Young Adult/Family Pot Luck

NEXT SUNDAY – December 8, 2019

SERMON: "Objection!" (Part 2)

By: Dr. Timothy Witmer

Scripture: Romans 9:19-33

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Attendance: <u>Early Service</u>	84	\$3,542.00
<u>Late Service</u>	170	\$6,656.01

Amount received for General Fund only \$10,198.01

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/01/19

*WELCOME VISITORS!! We are happy that you are with us. Our purpose is to share Christ through our ministries. Please sign the visitors' card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. **Nursery is offered during our 10:30 worship service for children ages three or younger. KINGDOM KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** is available for children ages 4-7. They will be dismissed during the 10:30 service "Children's Song".*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All of our homebound members and also prayers of healing for:

Marijane Schappel	Wanda Bossler	Lucille Weaver	John Martin	
Amy Weigelt	Joan Jacobs	Shirley Titus	Werner von der Heide	
Kaylee Richard	Lee Curley	Pat Fieger	Laine Eberly	Kurt Weaver

*Names appear on this list when we are given permission to print them.
 (New names added to the list appear in dark print)

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES and LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from our ushers as you enter the sanctuary.

SCENT-FREE SEATING - For those with sensitivity to scents, seating has been designated in the southwestern section of the balcony. Please be respectful of those who have a medical reaction to scents and fragrances.

OVERFLOW PARKING is available behind Beck's Funeral Home.

FREE BIBLE & CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK BIBLE - We are offering a free copy of the English Standard Version Bible (the one we use in our pews) to anyone who would like one. Also, there is a Children's Bible for families with children under 12. One per family, please. Please stop at the Welcome Center on your way out and they will provide you with a copy.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The ***Tree of Warmth*** is now in the Breezeway ready for your unwrapped gifts of new gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters and socks. These items will go to CrossNet Ministries. Thank you for caring and sharing. The Outreach Committee

THE HANDBELLS are looking for a fulltime player for the handbell choir starting after the New Year to complete the season through May 2020. Rehearsals are the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month and the bells play on the second Sunday of each month and Easter. If you are interested, please contact Charlene Leaman at 484.678.5460.

ST STEPHEN HANDBELLS will be joining the *Sing for the Moment* choir, under the direction of Clair Leaman, today in West Bethany Chapel at Landis Homes for a 2:00 pm concert. This choir is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association of Lancaster County.

Saturday, December 7th, St Stephen handbells will join Garden Spot Handbells, under the direction of Fran Rapp, for a combined concert in the Garden Spot Village Chapel.

CROSSNET CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROGRAM - St. Stephen is sponsoring three (3) New Holland families for Christmas by providing gifts for the children. This is a great opportunity to work together to show Christ's love in a personal way and be a blessing to our neighbors in need during the Christmas season. All the tags have been taken from the trees, but you can still participate by, making a donation to the Samaritan Fund, indicating it's for the Christmas Gift program or volunteer to help parents gift wrap on December 14 (check with Sue for more information on this option). Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Sue Ressler at 703.282.6959 or susanressler@gmail.com

TAKE THEM A MEAL MINISTRY NEEDS YOU: If someone is ill, elderly, has had a new baby or has experienced a death in the family, oftentimes family, friends, co-workers and church members rally around these families to take them meals. The Women's Steering Committee has a coordinator, Barb Field, who uses "TakeThemAMeal.com" to allow meal providers to sign up for a day or days when they will provide meals to the meal recipients. Most meal providers prepare meals in their own kitchens or order local carryout/delivery for the meal recipients. On their website, they share recipes, meal-taking tips and other ways to care for those who are dear to you. If a meal provider enters an email address when they sign up to provide a meal, they will receive an email reminder the day before they are to provide the meal. We have many needs in our church family but few people signed up to help

with this vital ministry. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us by signing up in the narthex. Contact Barb Field at bswisher24@gmail.com or 848-702-1023 if you are able to help.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MESSIAH SING-A-LONG will be held Friday, December 27 at 7 pm at Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. St. Stephen's own, Clair Leaman will be conducting and Heidi Shannon will be one of the soloists. Anyone is welcome to come and listen. For more details, see the bulletin board or check the web at: messiahsingalong.com.

NEW HOLLAND FOOD BANK: Please remember this ongoing ministry in which we can all participate. Bins for donations are located in the narthex and breezeway. Monetary donations are also welcome via your offering envelope – remember to indicate *Food Bank* on your gift.

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Telephone 717-354-7871 Fax 717-355-2565

Church Office Email: ststephenpca@ststephenpca.comcastbiz.net

Website address: ststephenpca.org