

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 9, 2018 – 8:15 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

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

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Gottes Sohn ist kommen” (BWV 600)
(God’s Son is coming)
“See, Amid the Winter’s Snow”

J.S. Bach

Noel Rawsthorne

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 149*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
ALL: His praise in the assembly of the godly!
ONE: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
ALL: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
ONE: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
ALL: He adorns the humble with salvation.

*OPENING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn #201

*INVOCATION

Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, He will not despise. Let us, therefore, confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life. In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight. Yet we still fail to love you as we should and serve you as we ought. Forgive our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow in Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Sing We Now of Christmas”
St. Stephen Bells

arr. K. McChesney

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 31:10-31

Page #552

SERMON

“The Wise Woman from A-Z”

Dr. Timothy Witmer

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

Gustav Hoist

*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.

*CLOSING HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

Hymn #213

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’

Andrew Carter

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: The Congregation

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

Associate Pastor: Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

Elders: John Garner, Josh Irvine, Richard Miller & Mike Ressler

Deacons: Gene Eberly, Tom Frankhouser, Chuck Kidhardt & Ernie Orr

Organist Emeritus: A.J. Young

Organist and Choirmaster: Douglas Wimer

Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks

Children’s Ministry Director: Faith Titus

Welcome Center: Dick & Cathy Eby

Greeters: Gene & Viki Eberly

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 9, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

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

GATHERING (Congregation seated)
“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Praise Book #24

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

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*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”

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and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM 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

MUSICAL OFFERING

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

Life Groups Week

Today	8:15 am	Early Worship Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Youth Group
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday	6:45 pm	Choir Practice
	7:00 pm	Officers Meeting

FUTURE EVENTS...

<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/18</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Global Outreach Meeting</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>12/19</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Bell Rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/20</i>	<i>6:45 pm</i>	<i>Choir Rehearsal</i>

NEXT SUNDAY – December 16, 2018

SERMON: “Wisdom Incarnate”

By: Dr. Timothy Witmer

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 2, 2018

Attendance:	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>\$4,766.00</u>
	<u>Late Service</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>\$8,754.00</u>

Amount received for General Fund only \$13,520.00

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/09/18

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:

Lee Curley	Laine Eberly	Thelma (Tiny) Buch	Barb Carey
Carolyn Martin	Judi Jenkins	Ruth Ford	Laverne Herr
Ellen Peters Wagner – Jane Peters' daughter		Henry Weaver – brother of George Weaver	
Tara Emig – Bill & Fran Seiple's daughter		Kathy Gregg – friend of Ruth Frankhouser	

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

TABLETALK – The December issue is available at the Welcome Center. This is the last free issue of *TABLETALK*. If you wish to continue to receive this publication, you will need to order your own copy using the subscription card inside the December issue.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES 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.

THANK YOU for the outpouring of love through the lovely cards, gifts and wonderful luncheon given by the Women's Bible Study groups in honor of my birthday. It is such a blessing to be a part of the body of Christ at St Stephen Reformed Church, PCA. Barbara Witmer

BECAUSE of your generosity 16 coats/jackets were donated to needy New Holland families. Thank you for caring and sharing – The Outreach Committee.

Church Activities

THE “TREE OF WARMTH” is in the breezeway to accept your unwrapped gifts of new gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters and socks. These items will be taken to the New Holland Clothing Bank (*King's Closet*).

- Thanks again for caring and sharing, The Outreach Committee

ADULT WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL classes continue; Suffering with Jesus, Upper Zwingli; Marks of a Healthy Church, Lower Bachman and Christianity 101, Lower Bachman.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be held at 6 pm and 8 pm on Monday, December 24. Remember to take your poinsettia home (minus the plastic saucer) after the service you attend.

GLOBE WASHERS WANTED: A wash crew is needed to brighten up the sanctuary wall sconces for Christmas. The glass globes around the lower and upper walls all needs a good Windex shine. If you're available Tuesday, December 11 at 9:30 AM we can get the job done in no time depending on the turnout. It takes two to do each one. Bring along your favorite glass cleaner, rags or paper towels, small step ladder and sense of humor. If you have questions contact Viki Eberly at 717-929-0212 or 717-682-8315.

FOR SALE – there are a limited number of packages of frozen sausage remaining from the Children's Breakfast on Main. They are in the downstairs freezer and are available for \$2 per package (place money in the money box).

SAVE THE DATE: The next **Ladies' Breakfast** will be held at Yoder's Family Restaurant at 8:30 am on Saturday, January 12th, 2019. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: A **Chili Cook-Off and Game Night** is scheduled for Saturday, February 9th, 2019 at 6 pm. We will need 10-12 great cooks to enter their prize-winning chili recipe in a crock pot, a panel of 4-6 judges and lots of people to enjoy the fun and games you bring. Sign-up sheets and more details will be forthcoming.

Community Activities

NEW HOLLAND FOOD BANK: It's a busy time of year for everyone, but try to remember this ongoing ministry. There is currently a need for the following items:

Juice	Sugar
Canned Fruit	Flour
Canned Pasta	Pancake Mix & Syrup
Stuffing Mix	Laundry Detergent
Ketchup	Dish Detergent
Mayonnaise	Toilet Paper
Salad Dressing	Paper Towels
Mustard	Facial tissues

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.

MEALS ON WHEELS is seeking volunteers to make deliveries, as many of their regular drivers head South for the winter. Time required would be only a few hours one day every other week. If you are interested, please call 717.354.9150.