News & Views

Brownback’s United Church of Christ January 2020

Spring City, Pennsylvania

# Annual Meeting and Luncheon

On Sunday, **January 26**, Brownback’s UCC will hold its annual meeting immediately following our 10 am Service. At this time, we will reflect on 2019 and plan for 2020. Our Annual Reports will be available for you on Sunday, **January 19** for you to take home and read. The booklet presents the record of our life together in 2019. You may be surprised at all the good things we have done – for others and for our own people.

Included in the Reports will be the 2020 budget which is to be proposed by the Budget Committee and recommended for our consideration and adoption by Consistory.

Following the meeting, everyone is invited to move into Fellowship Hall to enjoy a great lunch and a time of friendship and conversation together.

All church treasurers and committee chairpersons must submit their end-of-year reports to the church office no later than

**January 5**. The reports should provide a summary of the year’s activities as well as a listing of receipts and expenses incurred by the committees.

## Calendar of Events

| Date | Time | Event |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January |
| 5 | 11:00 AM | Worship Play Information Session*End-of-Year Reports Due* |
| 9 | Noon | Young at Heart |
| 12 | 11:00 AM | Family Time |
| 13 | 8:30 AM | Men’s Breakfast |
| 23 |  | *News & Views deadline* |
| 26 | 11:00 AM | Annual Congregational Meeting |
| February |
| 9 | 4:30 PM | Community Dinner |

## Recurring Events

### Sunday Worship:

8:45 AM – Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM –Worship Service, Worship Time for Children, Kids JAM

### Faith Formation:

Women’s Bible Study – 10:00 AM, Tuesday

Men’s Breakfast – 8:30 AM, 2nd Monday

### Music:

Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 9:15 AM, Sunday

Good News Singers Rehearsal – 9:00 AM, 2nd Sunday

Worship Ensemble Rehearsal – 5:30 PM, Wednesday

Chancel Handbells – 6:45 PM, Wednesday

### Fellowship:

Fitness Classes – Monday/Wednesday at 8:45 AM

Young at Heart – Noon, 2nd Thursday

## Pastor’s Ponderings

I am writing up this article on the 23rd of December, which seems weird to be thinking of 2020 but as it is, there will be new items and events to calendar this month also! With the New Year on the horizon, I will be planning a few things out for the coming year.

As we all move forward with our vision plan, this year can help play a vital piece in remembering it and working towards something new and challenging. One of the items is to plan a youth Sunday, where the service will be run entirely by them. These are interesting and a lot of fun to put together, so I am excited about this. I know that other different services will be looked into as well and if anyone wishes to read the scriptures and prayer for the day or anything else associated with service, please let me know!

And then a little sooner on the calendar will be our Lenten services and that schedule among the East Coventry Union of Churches has been prepared. If you have never been to one of these services, they are a great time to meet a new pastor in our union of churches and there is always refreshments afterwards. Refreshments is short for those extra calories of pie and ice cream that will melt away within hours!! 😊

And then at the end of January, the 26th, we will be having our annual congregational meeting. I look forward to another fun and exciting year as we all dream and try different ways in which to serve Christ, who always leads us into places we probably never would imagine being.

And as I conclude this article, I would like to encourage everyone to seek out justice wherever they are, to prepare a time and space to be silent and with God and to always know, that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcomed here!

Pastor Mark

## Church Election Results

Following the service on December 15th, the following members were elected to service at Brownback’s starting in 2020:

**Elders**: Chadd Bauer Robert Keeley, III

**Deacons**: Lara Faust Larry Potts

**Cemetery Board**: Mike Houck Barry Vining

**Endowment Board**: Bill Moore Julie Radel

Thanks to the following people who faithfully served and completed terms at the end of 2019:

**Elders**: Pat Diener Linda Raifsnider

**Deacons**: Polly Roussey Amy Stone

**Cemetery Board**: Calvin Idler Bob Jacob

**Endowment Board**: Rich Bauer John Stone

## Community Dinner

On Sunday, **February 9** from 4:30-6:30 PM, a Community Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends, family, and neighbors out for a great soup and salad dinner!

## The Mitten Tree

The mitten tree produced a lot of Christmas gifts for Project Outreach, the Spring Ford and Spring City Food Pantries this Christmas season. Through your generosity, we delivered 4 hat-scarf-mitten sets, 18 hats with mittens, 15 knit hats, 3 scarfs, 23 pairs of mittens, 13 pairs of slipper socks, 15 pairs of children’s socks, and 26 pairs of baby socks. Many children will be warmer this winter, thanks to you!

## Worship Play Information Session

Interested in learning more about Worship Play? Maybe you're unsure what the children do downstairs, or maybe you'd like to learn more about the curriculum so you can help.

Great news! An information/training session will be held in the Fellowship Hall after church on **January 5**. A new curriculum has been adopted for Worship Play, which means it is new to everyone. Enjoy a snack while Kaitlin Iezzi shares important information about the new curriculum and answers questions regarding Worship Play. Remember – two teachers and an assistant (who doesn't have to prepare anything) are needed each week. That is about 12 slots to fill each month for just one program. Your help is needed!

## Nursery & Worship Play Signups

We had a very successful Fall season for Nursery and Worship Play. To continue these programs, we need additional volunteers. If you have not been a part of these two programs before, please contact Kaitlin Iezzi with any questions you may have. Volunteers can sign up at the links below. Our goal is to have January – March completely scheduled by January 12.

**Nursery**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e48ada822a4f85-nursery1>

**Worship Play**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E48ADA822A4F85-worship2>

## Family Time

On Sunday, **January 12** after Worship, parents will meet in the parlor for discussion while children join in the back of the Fellowship Hall for New Years' activities.

## Stewart’s Corner

Holiday Greetings, Everyone!

As I sat in my den the other week, I heard the children of the church talking about cake and got really interested, because I love to eat. But the CAKE they were talking about was their musical, the ***Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment***. What a wonderful message for the kids to hear – how they can reach out to the community through collecting food and clothes for those less fortunate, prepare the church for the celebration of Baby Jesus' birth, and bring the word of the Bible to those who are homebound through caroling. I hope they always remember the lessons of the musical, the Childrens' Messages, and what they are learning in Worship Play.

One thing that I find interesting is that the kids are really learning how to do the work of the church through observation. Do you remember how you learned to be a Brownback's member? Can you help to demonstrate how to be a faithful member of Brownback's? There are sign-ups in the lobby for lector and fellowship hour. I have often heard calls on Sunday mornings for people to join a choir, offer special music, help with maintaining the property, acolyte, contribute goods to special collections or participate in Bible studies.

So my questions for you are these: Are you happy with what you contribute to the life of Brownback's? And what can you do to demonstrate to the children how to live as a member?

Eagerly looking forward to learning about your CAKEs,

*Stewart, the Church Mouse*

## Christmas at Young at Heart

Young at Heart held its Christmas Luncheon on December 12th at Brownback’s. People arrived decked out in reds and greens and bursting with the holiday spirit. They were greeted with tables decorated with white cloths, red candles, and evergreens. The Spirit of Christmas was furthered by a program presented by Elva Hurst, “The Reason We Celebrate the Season”, the birth of Jesus, God’s gift to the world. Eva related her life’s journey with art which eventually led to presenting Biblical stories with “chalk pictures” to her Sunday School Class. She now chalks “stories” with music, lights, and narration to highlight her messages.

Bob Jacob won the door prize, a poinsettia. Polly Roussey presented Nancy Peiffer with a poinsettia in appreciation of all the work she does in organizing Young at Heart programs. She also read the poem, “Christmas Card List”, which touched everyone’s heart.

We all formed a friendship circle and sang “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, followed by “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”.

Nancy reminded us that the next Young at Heart Luncheon will be held Thursday, **January 9**. Carol Spacht will portray Betsy Ross and relate the story of the creation of the first American Flag. Come and join us for an interesting and revealing event.

## Men’s Breakfast

The men of the church are invited to breakfast at The Ridge Restaurant on **January 13** at 8:30 AM. Breakfast is BYOB – Bring Your Own Bible. See Pastor Mark for the lectionary.

## January is Pantry Month

Brownback’s Church is just one of many churches in our area that supports the Food Pantry in Spring City, part of the ministry of Project Outreach. We have a group of faithful volunteers who continue to serve at the Pantry and we also do our part to keep it stocked.

Responsibility for donations falls to a different church each month – **January** is Brownback’s month. Please bring canned goods and non-perishable food items to church, and place them in the big brown box in the lobby.

## Online Giving

In an effort to help our overall church giving become more consistent and to offer our members multiple giving options to suit personal preferences, Brownback's offers online giving.

**How it Works**: On the Home page of the church website ([www.brownbackschurch.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CKris%5CDownloads%5Cwww.brownbackschurch.org)), click the button titled "Click for Online Giving" to set up one-time or recurring (e.g., weekly, monthly) donations. If online giving doesn't work for you after trying it, you can always cancel and return to the offering plate.

Your online contributions will appear in your annual tax report.



Please reach out to Anne Behe or Kaitlin Iezzi with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Brownback's Consistory*

## End of Year Giving Statements

Due to the increased standard deductions and less people meeting the requirements to itemize deductions, year-end contribution letters used for 2019 tax return preparation will only be provided upon request. Contact Anne Behe if you would like a 2019 year-end contribution letter.

## Cemetery Reminders

Flowers can be placed in front of headstone not to exceed 12” from the stone and squared front only. All holiday wreaths will be removed starting the week of March 8th in preparation for Easter. Any planters or metal stands will be placed on the side of the garage. Any items found to be unsafe or unauthorized will be removed.

## Mission Support

If you have suggestions for how the Missions allotment from the Endowment Fund should be allocated in 2020, please contact one of the following Missions Committee members:

Linda Bauer, Chair

Greg Siwik, Treasurer

Vickie Bradley

Jeanette Francesco

Michelle Kullen

The amount allotted for Missions will be calculated in January 2020, at which time the committee will meet to draft its recommendation. Upon Consistory approval, the recommendation is then taken to the congregation for a vote during our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Criteria for recommendation is that a group be faith-based and meets needs for local, national, and global organizations as well as our church-related requests.

## Bible Study Luncheon

A surprise luncheon was held in the parlor at Brownback’s for the Women’s Bible Study group on December 3rd. The women had just completed the study, “Overcomer” by Dr. David Jeremiah, and were treated to a festive holiday luncheon by Linda Raifsnider and moderator Nancy Peiffer.

Beginning Tuesday, January 7 at 10 am, Nancy will be teaching a new series, *Revelation* by David Jeremiah. All women are invited to join us every Tuesday for an in-depth study of the Book of Revelation. Come and join us for a most revealing and easy to understand, last Book of the Bible.

## Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2020 is now available on the bulletin board in the lobby near the Sign-Up Center. Please consider sponsoring the purchase of flowers to decorate our sanctuary during Worship. Flowers cost $40 per week, with checks payable to “Brownback’s UCC”. Sign up for a week now! Spots fill quickly.

## News & Views Deadline

The deadline for the February issue of the *News & Views* newsletter is **January 23**. To include information in the newsletter, you can leave information in the *News & Views* mailbox in the church lobby or email information to Penny Sallade at pennysallade@yahoo.com.

## One At a Time

A business man was overworked and decided to take some time off. While vacationing on the coast, a terrible storm hit. When it died down, he decided to take a walk down the coast to see what damage had been done. As he walked along the shore, he noticed thousands of starﬁsh which had washed upon the shore. He knew that in a few hours the sun would come out and the starﬁsh would dry out and die. As he thought about the starfish, he noticed a young boy who was throwing the starﬁsh back one by one. The man was amazed by the youth’s diligence and shocked by his feeble attempts to make a difference. As he looked up the long beach, he saw thousands of starﬁsh. When he caught up with the young man, he informed the boy that he could not possible save them all and said to the little boy, “You’ll never be able to make a difference to the starﬁsh population.” The boy bent down, picked up a starfish, looked at it, then threw it back into the safety of the ocean. Then he said, “I sure made a difference to that one.”

We cannot personally make a difference in the lives of everyone who ﬁlls this world, but we can make a difference to a few of them. It is interesting that when Jesus spoke of those on His right hand on the Day of Judgment, he described them as having made a difference in the life of one person. He said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). Each of us can make a difference in the life of someone. This is how Jesus worked—one at a time.

(<https://bulletindigest.com/2014/07/08/one-time/>)

## Epiphany

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Church who have Christmas on 7th January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (also sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus.



The people of Spain celebrate 'The festival of the three Magic Kings' when children receive their presents - as they are delivered by the Three Kings!

In Austria, some people write a special sign in chalk over their front door. It's a reminder of the Wise Men that visited the baby Jesus. It's made from the year split in two with initials of the names that are sometimes given to 'the three wise men', Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, in the middle. So 2020 would be: 20\*C\*M\*B\*20. The sign is meant to protect the house for the coming year.

At Epiphany in Belgium, children dress up as the three wise men and go from door to door to sing songs and people give them money or sweets, similar to Trick or Treating on Halloween.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, on Epiphany, the Christmas Tree is either taken down or the ornaments are replaced with purple, gold and green ones and it's then called a 'Mardi Gras Tree'! People also like to eat 'King Cake' (a cinnamon pastry with sugar on the top and sometimes filled with cream cheese or jelly/jam). The King Cake has a little baby plastic doll inside (which represents Jesus); whoever gets the piece with the baby has to supply the next King Cake!

Historically, Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations.

## Prayer Concerns

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” – Matthew 21:22

For those who serve:

* Reed Bauer, 2nd year cadet at West Point, The United States Military Academy
* Nathaniel Cherubini, Chief Warrant Officer 3.,
United States Marine Corp. Nephew of Rick and Jeanette Francesco
* Brock Fasnacht, nephew of Doug and Sue Kandler, Army National Guard
* Paige Juliette Freeman, Trooper First Class, Delaware State Police
* Andrea Shade, 4th year cadet at West Point, The United States Military Academy
* Thomas Shade, Captain in the Army based in South Carolina

**Members**: Ryan Copenhaver, Joe Kandler, Sr., Pat Kandler, Bob Keeley, Sr., Jill Keeley, Gerry Marvel, Thelma Nelson, Terry Overholtzer, Marie Painter.

**Friends of Brownback’s**: Veronika Berry, Melanie Rowe Davis, Maria Demaio, Nick and Debbie D’Orsaneo, Eva Diener, Ed Hesling, Barbara Knoell, Tom Knoell, Sean Mahoney, Mosteller, Allison Peretin, Tiffany Pfleger, Gigi Potter, Tom Shaner, Craig Warwood.



## January Birthdays

We rejoice with those of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in January.

1/2 Brooke Radel

1/5 Dirk Diener

1/6 Jonathan Blair

 Bob Jacob

1/8 Austin Boaman

1/9 Steve Guy

1/10 Greg Gerhart

 Matt Gerhart

 Amy Stone

1/11 MaryKate Stone

1/12 Melissa McFarland

 Paul Roussey

1/17 Oliver Moore

1/18 Roxanne Overholtzer

1/19 Calvin Idler

1/20 Alexis Keeley

 Ashley Keeley

 David Vining

1/21 Richard Bauer

1/24 Josh Bradley

 Martin Kullen

 Mackenzie Kurtz

1/25 Alyssa Kurtz

1/27 Anne Behe

1/29 Sue Kandler

## January Anniversaries

We congratulate the following in our church family who are celebrating wedding anniversaries in January.

1/10 Lawrence and Lisa Blair

1/12 Rodney and JoAnn Bauer

1/18 Paul and Missy Martin

## Our Church Leaders

Rev. Mark Stryak, Pastor and Teacher

Barry Vining, President

Linda Raifsnider, Vice President

Amy Stone, Secretary

Anne Behe, Financial Secretary

Holly Vining, Current Treasurer

Kaitlin Iezzi, Benevolence Treasurer

Calvin Idler, Major Improvements Treasurer

#### Elders

2020 Earl Brungess Barry Vining

2021 Randall Ruilova Mark Sweitzer

2022 Chadd Bauer Robert Keeley, III

#### Deacons

2020 Derrick Boaman Kaitlin Iezzi

2021 Calvin Idler Anne Behe

2022 Lara Faust Larry Potts

#### Cemetery Board

2020 Rick Francesco

2021 Brian Iezzi Greg Siwik

2022 Mike Houck Barry Vining

#### Endowment Board

2020 Mike Houck

2021 Bob Keeley Barry Vining

2022 Bill Moore Julie Radel

#### Our Church Staff

Kris Houck, Parish Administrator

Penny Sallade, Choir Director

Patricia Kandler, Organist

Larry Simmers, Sexton

Kaitlin Iezzi, Christian Education Chair

Greg Siwik, Cemetery Superintendent

Brownback United Church of Christ

640 Ridge Road

Spring City, Pennsylvania 19475

Address Service Requested