



State Line UMC

December 2017

Without Borders

Message from Pastor Kris

For me, the Christmas season is one of the most exciting, life-giving times of the year, and yet one of the most discouraging and frustrating. Growing up, the Christmas season was a reminder of the poverty and lack of money that existed within my family. Most of my early childhood years, I lived with my single mother who worked many jobs to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table. She lived paycheck to paycheck, utilized food stamps to feed us and yet barely made it by each month. I could always sense the Christmas season was even more stressful and discouraging for my mother. It was a yearly reminder of how difficult life was, and how she was unable to buy me those high-cost, big purchases. I could tell that she wanted to so badly buy me those walkie-talkies, the Play Station game system, or those new clothes I always asked for. Instead, she gifted me simple gifts, often times the things we needed around the house. Or, I would receive over-sized or clearly worn clothes or toys that she was able to afford at a clothing bank or Salvation Army.

Now that I am an adult, I look back on Christmas and never remember the gifts. Nor can I remember all the gifts I wanted so badly. What I remember are those mornings that I would wake up, our apartment would look beautiful, my mom would remind me that she loved and cared for me so much, and she would tell me that being together was more important than any gift I would receive. After this initial excitement, I would head to our local UM church for a yearly Christmas Day service with my grandmother, Joyce. This was one of my favorite services each year. The pastor would remind us that the real meaning behind Christmas was the birth of Jesus. I can still picture my pastor dramatically reading the birth narrative from Luke 2. "Don't be afraid. Look! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord."

This worship service and just hearing the scripture read was my Christmas gift each year. Each year, I was reminded to not be afraid with my life. But to be joyful on this day because our Savior has been born, he is Christ the Lord. Jesus is born! Jesus is now among us! Christmas was that yearly reminder of the goodness of God, and how in the midst of life's difficulties Jesus is what matters.

If finances are an issue for you, if gift giving has lost its joy, if you can't find meaning in the midst of chaos, there is a solution. "Don't be afraid. LOOK! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord." Glory to God who has met me each year on Christmas, and provided me amazing peace. May God grant you peace and wholeness as you prepare for Christmas this year.



Our Mission To make new disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Vision To invite and reach out to our neighbors to encounter God, grow in faith and serve in Christ's love

Worship Service Volunteers

- December 3rd
Worship Assistant: Mark Semler
Acolyte: Jacob
Greeters: Matt E. & Judy E.
Nursery: Tabitha F.-Y. & Julia S.
- December 10th
Worship Assistant: Keric Ellis
Acolyte: Madison
Greeters: Darlene H. & Barb L.
Nursery: Gwenelle T. & Dixie E.
- December 17th
Worship Assistant: Ellen Kennedy
Acolyte: Jacob
Greeters: Matt E. & John C.
Nursery: Tabitha F.-Y. & Julia S.
- December 24th
Worship Assistant: Roger Rebuck
Acolyte: Jennifer
Greeters: Mark S. & Rob S.
Nursery: Ashley P. & Tabitha F.-Y.
- December 31st
Greeters: Dixie E. & Barb L.
Nursery: Gwenelle T. & Julia S.



Anniversaries

- 18 Norman "Denny" & Jacqueline Simmons
- 20 Jonathan & Gwenelle Trivette
- 29 Terrin & Trey Altland
- 31 Matt & Bonnie Courtney
- 31 Steve & Denise Boyer



Birthdays

- 7 Ruth Hollister
- 9 Christy Garner
- 16 Molly Llyod
- 19 Sarah Beth Garner
- 19 Curtis Barr
- 20 Harry Kelley
- 26 Mary Thomas
- 29 Connor Socks
- 29 Ellen Kennedy
- 29 Jeffrey Wine
- 29 Connie Barr

Church Calendar

- December 1st – 2nd
State Line UMC Leadership Retreat
- December 5th
9:00AM – 12:00 noon – Office Hours
- December 6th
6:00PM – Prayer Time
7:00PM – Bible Study with Kris
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice
- December 7th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Ruth
- December 8th
6:30pm – Church Christmas Party
- December 12th
6:30pm – Finance Committee
7:00pm – Administrative Council
- December 13th
6:00PM – Prayer Time
7:00PM – Bible Study with Kris
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice
- December 14th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Ruth
- December 17th
10:15am – Christmas Pageant
12:00PM – Young Adults Lunch
6:00PM – Youth Group Christmas Party
- December 20th
6:00PM – Prayer Time
7:00PM – Bible Study with Kris
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice

- December 21st
4:45PM – New Hope Shelter Meal
- December 24th
10:15am – Service: 4th Sunday in Advent
7:00pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 27th
7:00pm – Praise Team Practice

Christ's Teachings "Who Needs Christmas?"

We explore how profound was the birth of Jesus in making us children of God, lifting our burdens and giving us abundant life.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL!

Calling all kids!!

December 17th



December 17th, the children of State Line UMC will perform the Christmas Pageant. Older kids will narrate while the younger mime. Practices will continue December 3rd and 10th during church with kids being dismissed from Children's Chat to practice. Invite your friends and local youth to this fun celebration of Christ's birth!

Christmas Even Candlelight Service

December 24th at 7:00PM



Our Christmas Eve candlelight celebration will be held at 7:00pm. By placing door-hangers, we have invited the community to join this beautiful service. Please extend a personal welcome to those neighbors around you to join in this celebration.

Relax and Share Service

Sunday, December 31st at 10:15AM



Our service the last Sunday of the year will be a casual service. There will be songs and hymns, but the main focus of the service will be to invite the congregation to share testimonials. You could share a scripture passage that made a difference at some point in your life, or maybe a passage you think would benefit others moving into the New Year. Come prepared to share a word on this Sunday!

Holiday Sunday School Schedule

December 24th and 31st

There will be no Sunday School the mornings of Sunday, December 24th and Sunday, December 31st. All Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Thursday Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study with Pastor Ruth will be on break for the Christmas holiday from December 21st until January 11th. A new study, yet to be announced, will begin again at 9:30am on January 11th and continue every Thursday, weather-permitting. All are welcome to join.

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you again for the generous donations. The evening of November 9th, a team assembled 99 boxes for donation! This is a fantastic effort that makes a huge impact on the children receiving these gifts.



Church Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Party!

Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm

This will be a covered dish meal and lots of fun with our church family.

Collection and Donation Needs

New Hope Shelter

Bottles of bleach
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Laundry detergent
Plastic garbage bags (13 and 39 gallons)

**The shelter also stresses in their Critical Needs list the urgent need for volunteers to cook meals for the residents. Please consider signing up to serve. Our sign-up sheet is on the library table.

Food Pantry Needs

Salad dressing
Spaghetti sauce in cans or plastic jars
Spaghetti noodles
Pancake mix
Pancake syrup
Canned meat
Dry pasta or noodles
Potato mixes
Mac n Cheese
Jelly in Plastic jars
Crackers
Toilet paper



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

2017-18 LIHEAP Season is Now Open

The 2017-18 LIHEAP season begins today. [CLICK HERE](#) for the English of the 2017-18 LIHEAP application (form HSEA 1).

www.compass.state.pa.us

Or call the HELPLINE at 1-800-692-7462 between 8:30am and 4:45pm, Monday through Friday.

On October 20th, the Office of Community Services (OCS) Division of Energy Assistance (DEA) released 90% of the FY 2018 LIHEAP funds. Pennsylvania received the second largest funding allocation at \$178,633,729 of the approximately \$3.03 billion of Federal Fiscal Year 2018 regular block grant funding.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

STATE LINE UMC
287 EAST AVENUE
STATE LINE, PA 17263
717-597-4217

Sunday Worship:

10:15AM

All-Ages Sunday School:

9:00AM

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM-2:00PM

Pastor Kristopher Sledge

570-556-0395

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