

PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073
www.pennsburgucc.org
pennsburgucc@gmail.com



Address Service Requested

January 2026

Worship with PUCC every Sunday Morning at 10:30 a.m.

Worship services are streamed with Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/pennsburgucc>)

Pennsburg United Church of Christ mission statement:

We are a welcoming congregation that celebrates and shares God's unconditional love with each other, the community and the world.



Consistory Officers & Employees:

Rev. Steven Myren

Cell #267 575-6773 Email - pennucc.pastor@gmail.com

President.....Jane Bernhard

Vice President.....Donna Falk

Treasurer.....Amy Browning

SecretaryHolly Lash

Organists:Michael Huffman, Rich Spotts & Lou Carol Fix

Custodian.....Lynn Sturdevant

Admin Assist.....Amy Browning



From the Pastor,

“Guest House”

Rumi

This being human is a guest house
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still treat each guest honorably.

He may be clearing you out for some new delight.
The dark thought, the sham, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

The poem above is how Dan Gotlieb closes his book, “Letters to Sam.” This winter we will be reading through the book together during worship. Elsewhere in the Newsletter are more details, including how you can pick up a book to read. I am excited to talk about the lessons in this book with you. Please plan on joining us on Sunday mornings!

Agape,
Pastor Steve

From Consistory

Marshall Landscaping has completed the landscaping of the Church's property. The cost is \$3200, which will be paid off-budget through private donations. If you would like to contribute to providing this wonderful Christmas Gift for our church property, please place your donation in the offering plate on a Sunday morning during January or mail your donation to the church office. Make sure to indicate on your check or envelope that your gift is for "church landscaping." Thank you for helping to raise our presence in our community as we beautify our grounds!

At their December meeting, Consistory re-organized for the 2026 year. **PUCC's Officers** for this year are:

President: Jane Bernhardt

Vice-President: Donna Falk

Secretary: Holly Lash

Consistory also appointed Maggie Bittermann to Consistory.

New Consistory Members will be Installed during worship on January 18th.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering to serve.

PUCC is in need of volunteers to **remove snow** from the church sidewalks. We do own a snow blower. Please talk to a Consistory member if you can help out. Thank you.

Please have **2025 Annual Reports** into the Church Office by Sunday, January 11th, so that they can be prepared and distributed by the end of January. Thank you.

Consistory has approved a **Blessing Box** to be placed on the church's property by the Girl Scouts. A Blessing Box contains non-perishable food items, which are free to everyone. The Girl Scouts will maintain the box, although if you would like to donate items, that would be appreciated!

In 2026 PUCC is looking to renew our current committees with new members. Our standing committees are:

Worship Committee: Helps to plan, organize and conduct PUCC's worship services with the Pastor.

Fellowship Committee: Plans, organizes and runs PUCC Fellowship and Fund Raising Events.

Christian Education Committee: Runs PUCC's educational ministries.

Outreach & Growth Committee: Extends our presence and the awareness of PUCC in our community by participating in community events.

Builds relationships with our community by hosting community events at the church.
Strengthens the relationships within our faith family through fellowship events.

Caring & Sharing: Cares for Congregational members through the Prayer Chain, visitations and other ministries.

If you would be interested in serving on one of these committees or would like more information, please talk to Pastor Steve.

Are You Found Here: Upcoming PUCC Meetings

7:00 PM, Monday, January 5 th :	Space Task Force
11:00 AM, Saturday, January 10 th :	Fellowship Committee
7:00 PM, Monday, January 12 th :	Outreach & Growth Committee
7:30 PM, Tuesday, January 13 th :	Christian Education Committee
11:00 AM, Wednesday, January 14 th :	Worship Committee
6:30 PM, Monday, January 19 th :	Consistory
7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 20 th :	Welcoming Mindset Task Force

Pastor Steve will be on vacation from Friday, December 26th to Friday, January 2nd. If you are in need of Pastoral Care during these five days, he is not traveling and is available. Please call.

The **Code Blue Shelter** is open on the nights when the temperature drops below 32 degrees. However, they are still looking for volunteers. Each evening requires a team of ten volunteers, working in four shifts. The shifts are:

8:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Intake of guests
11:00 PM – 2:00 AM	Overnight #1
2:00 AM – 5:00 AM	Overnight #2
5:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast & Clean-up

All volunteers are required to complete the Upper Perk Homelessness Coalition Code Blue Volunteer Registration Form, preferably through the Open Link Website. Volunteers will also need to complete a Pennsylvania volunteer background check and participate in one Code Blue Training Session.

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Steve and PLEASE consider volunteering to help as you are able.

2026 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event!

The Reformation Sister Congregations in the Upper Perkiomen Valley are hosting a meal-packaging event with Rise Against Hunger. The event is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, January 25. The event will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Hill. The following shifts are needed:

- Set up shift (12 noon -1:30 PM) - requires heavy lifting
- First meal packaging shift (1:30-2:45 PM)
- Second meal packaging shift (3:15-4:30 PM)

If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Pastor Steve.

Please find a display rack in the Tile Room containing a variety of **homemade cards** to send to family and friends. They are being provided by Robin Myren, who is a demonstrator for Stamping Up and owns her own card-making business, Songbird Designs. Cost per card is \$5. There will be a basket to pay for your cards by the display; All proceeds will go to PUCC's General Fund. Thank you to Robin for making this fundraiser possible!

Worship at PUCC

IMPORTANT REMINDER! Starting Sunday, January 4, 2026 and continuing through April, Worship and Sunday School at PUCC will begin at **9 AM**.

PUCC will celebrate the coming of the Wise Men as told in Matthew 2 on **Epiphany Sunday**, January 4th. This will be the final message based on the song “Mary Did You Know,” talking about the line, “*Mary, Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Would One Day Rule the Nations?*” We will celebrate **Communion** and our youth will be receiving **January’s Quarters for Sheep & Chicks Offering**. Please join us as we begin 2026 together in worship!

Winter Worship Series “Letters to Sam”

When his grandson was born, Daniel Gottlieb began to write a series of heartfelt letters that he hoped his grandson Sam would read later in life. What motivated him was the fear that he might not live long enough to see Sam reach adulthood. Daniel Gottlieb was a quadriplegic—the result of a near-fatal automobile accident that occurred two decades ago—and he knew enough not to take anything for granted. Then, when Sam was only 14 months old, he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disability, a form of autism, and suddenly everything changed. Now the grandfather and grandson were bound by something more: a disability—and Daniel Gottlieb’s special understanding of what that means became invaluable.

If you would like to read the book, copies are found in the back of the sanctuary and in the Tile Room. In addition, each week the chapter that will be discussed on the coming Sunday will be emailed to you. Please join PUCC’s Worship Services in January and February as we talk about insights into what it means to be human found in “Letters to Sam.”

Upcoming Worship Highlights

January 11th

Letters to Sam: “Reclaiming Your Wisdom”

Jeremiah 1: 4 – 5

Taking Down the Christmas Decorations following Worship

January 18th

Letters to Sam: “Healing our Wounds”

Psalm 137: 1 – 6

Consistory Installation

January 25th

Letters to Sam: “The Smell of Peace”

Joshua

February 1st

Letters to Sam: “Being Productive”

Luke 10: 38 – 43

Children’s Chat: Quarters for Sheep & Chicks

February 8th

Letters to Sam: “A Lesson in Dying”

1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 57

Philippians 1: 21 – 26

February 15th

Letters to Sam: “Make the Container Bigger”

Luke 10: 25 – 37

Reception following Worship with Valentine’s Day Cookie Decorating



In January **Lunch and Learn** will meet at noon on Wednesdays in Miller Hall. We will start a new discussion on ANGELS. Please pack a lunch and join us!

You can help PUCC send sheep and flocks of chickens to farmers through our monthly **Quarters for Sheep & Chicks Offering**. Please bring the change you’ve collected in December with you to worship on Sunday, January 4th for our next Offering and thank you for your support of PUCC’s Children and Heifer Project!

Youth from Pre-school to the fifth grade are invited to go downstairs for **Sunday School** following Children’s Chat on Sunday mornings. Parents can pick their kids up downstairs following worship. If you would like to teach or assist in Sunday School, please talk to CE Committee Member (Holly Lash, Wendy Smedley, Jane Bernhardt and Lori Kern.)

PUCC’s Youth are invited to **January’s Youth Gathering** from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Sunday, January 11th. In addition, we are rescheduling our **Overnight**, which was postponed due to the weather. As always, friends are always welcome to join us!

Outreach & Growth

Please join us starting from 6 PM to 8 PM on Friday, January 23rd for a **Pizza & Games Night**. The Outreach & Growth Committee will provide Pizza and Drinks for supper if you would like to bring snack food to share. Games for all ages will be played, if you would like to bring your favorite board and card games. This event is open to our community, so please bring your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family!

Outreach and Growth Calendar of Events for 2026

Pizza & Games: 6 PM – 8 PM, Friday, January 23rd

We will sponsor a night of games and food.

Valentine's Day Fellowship Hour: 11:30 AM, Sunday, February 15th

We will sponsor a Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating

Phantom's Game: 3:05 PM, Sunday, March 1st

Will go with St. John's. We have reserved 18 tickets. Cost: \$30.

Earth Day Succulent Planting: 9 AM to Noon, Saturday, April

We will invite our members and the community to a day of planting household plants.

"9 to 5" at Desales University: 2 PM, Sunday, May 3rd

Cost: \$33, Seniors and Students \$29.

We will go with St. John's. We have reserved 18 tickets.

Make Music UP: 11 AM – 1 PM, Sunday, June 21st

We will provide hot dogs, chips, soft pretzels, dessert and water to those watching the performances at our church.

Iron Pigs Game:

Church Swim & Games @ YMCA: 4 PM to 7 PM, Sunday,

Peach & Ice Cream Festival: Saturday, August 15th

The committee will sponsor the Basket Raffle and activities for kids.

Community Day: Saturday, September

We will have a stand with crafts and PUCC give-away items.

Fall Arts & Crafts Afternoon:

An afternoon of food, fellowship and the making of Fall Crafts.

Sight & Sound Trip w/St. John's:

Halloween Parade: 5:30 PM, October

We'll provide hot chocolate and pretzels to those attending the parade.

Fellowship

The **PUCC COOKBOOK** has arrived and is available for purchase in the Tile Room. Cost is \$20. The cookbook is the perfect Christmas gift to give to family and friends, while also supporting your church!

In January, PUCC will be putting together **Birthday Bags** for Open Link. Each bag will contain items needed for a Birthday Celebration: Pan, Cake mix, Icing, Oil, Candles, Napkins, Plates, Gift Cards (separate). Please bring these items to church and drop them off in the Tile Room. We will put the bags together at the end of the month. Or, bring a completed bag in and leave it in the Tile Room. We will make sure it gets to Open Link. Thank you!

In March the **First Monday Meal** will be served by St. John's UCC, Sumneytown. Then, in February, **PUCC** will be sponsoring the **First Monday Meal** on Monday, February 2nd. A menu of Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Rolls, Butter, Sour Cream, Assorted Desserts from congregation, Milk, Carrots and Celery, Water and Lemonade will be served.

This is an all-hands-on-deck event for us. If you would like to help prepare the meal and set up Miller Hall, please plan on coming to the church after 4 PM. If you would like to help serve the meal, please arrive at the church no later than 5:45 PM. Any time you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

PUCC is creating a **Read & Share Library**. A new bookcase can be found in the Tile Room. Please bring any books that you have already read (all genres are welcome) and put them in the bookcase. Check and see if there are any books you'd like to read, take them along and return them when you have finished reading them. Let's share the books we have enjoyed with others!

Caring & Sharing

Please contact DeeDee Smith (215-679-9350) to activate **PUCC's Prayer Chain**.

Thank you to.....

Those doing work around the church property and building.

Everyone who donated to December's Quarters for Sheep & Flocks Offering
December's Sunday School Staff

PUCC's Youth Leaders

Worship Committee for decorating for Christmas Eve

Everyone who helped with worship in Advent & Christmas

Everyone who donated to Open Link's Holiday Cheer Room, and to Lori Kern for
delivering our gifts

Lori Kern, Dana Heimbach and Paula Sell for their service to PUCC on Consistory

DeeDee Smith, for coordinating our Prayer Chain

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

<i>Hoff, Huff, Haimes, Burns, Yoder-Taylor, Lauchner, Pistorius, Kee and Myren families</i>		
<i>Sharon Burns</i>	<i>Caleb Royer</i>	<i>Lori Hawkins</i>
<i>Ginny Wisler</i>	<i>Bob Heimbach</i>	<i>Jana Butler</i>
<i>Dwight & Deb Royer</i>	<i>Wendy Smedley</i>	<i>Eileen Koffroth</i>
<i>Tom & Mary Jane May</i>	<i>Betty Heimbach</i>	<i>Marie Sell</i>
<i>Rich McNeiley</i>	<i>Ella & Gary Gehringen</i>	

Remember Our Shut-Ins with Prayers, Thoughts and Cards

Shirley Pursel (9/9)
Lifequest Rehabilitation, Room S5
2450 John Fries Highway
Quakertown, PA 18951

Randy (10/9) & Beverly Reinhart (2/9)
809 Holly Drive
Green Lane, PA 18054
215-234-8208

Peggy Schwenk (5/3)
Parkhouse Nursing and Rehab
1600 Black Rock Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Dennis Hess
Pennsburg Manor, Room 222
530 Macoby Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Thank you to our Poinsettia Sponsors!

Kathy Badman in memory of Parents

Jane Bernhard in memory of Loved Ones

Sherry and John Haas in memory of Loved Ones

Bob and Dana Heimbach in memory of Loved Ones and in honor of Children and Grand Children

Charlene Heinrichs in memory of Sharon Urban and in memory of and Charles Weller

Holly, Irv, Aidan, Caleb, Brody, and Derek Lash in memory of Clarence and Helen Mensch and Irvin and Nancy Lash

Wendy Smedley in memory of Craig Smedley, in memory of Clarence and Helen Mensch, and in honor of Baylee Cleaver and Renee and Rich Mahon

DeeDee Smith in memory of Loved Ones

Ginny and Bud Wisler in memory of Our Parents

January, 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				January 1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 Epiphany 9:00 AM Communion Service & Sunday School	5 First Monday Meal 7 PM Space Task Force	6	7 9 AM – 2 PM Pastor Steve Office Hours Noon Lunch & Learn	8	9	10 11 AM Fellowship Committee
11 9:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 10:00 AM Take down Decorations 6:00 PM Youth Gathering	12 7:00 PM Outreach & Growth Committee	13 7:30 PM Christian Education Committee	14 9 AM – 2 PM Pastor Steve Office Hours Noon Lunch & Learn	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM Worship & Sunday School	19 6:30 PM Consistory	20 7:00 PM Welcoming Mindset Task Force	21 9 AM – 2 PM Pastor Steve Office Hours Noon Lunch & Learn	22	23 6 PM – 8 PM Pizza & Games Night	24
25 9:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 10:00 AM Reception	26	27	28 9 AM – 2 PM Pastor Steve Office Hours Noon Lunch & Learn	29	30	31
February 1 9 AM Worship & Sunday School 10:00 AM Consistory Conversation	2 First Monday Meal Hosted by PUCC	3	4 9 AM – 2 PM Pastor Steve Office Hours Noon Lunch & Learn	5	6	7

