

# THE CHAPEL MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2025

## A Letter from Pastor Josh

*“worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly..”*

Chapel friends,

The season of Advent is upon us. We take these next four weeks to prepare for the birth of the Christ child in that little town of Bethlehem. Advent Sunday is November 30, and I look forward to our Blue Christmas service. It truly is my favorite service of the year. It's a time to reflect and recall the true meaning of the season. It's all about Jesus, not commercialism.

We will be journeying together through "The Wonder of it All" by Mark Sorensen for our Advent series. Let us take this time to draw closer to our God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit. God gave us the greatest gift of all that very first Christmas. Let us share the hope and wonder of the Gospel to a broken world.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### **Contact Us**

W: chapelchurch.org

P: 717-244-6375

f: @ChapelChurch

### **Worship Schedule:**

8 AM – Traditional

9:15 – Small Groups &  
Sunday School

10: 30 AM – Modern

Join us online on our  
Facebook page or  
chapelchurch.org

### **Church Office**

#### **Hours:**

Monday –Wednesday

9: 30 AM – 12: 30 PM

Thursday – Friday

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

### **Prayer Chain:**

chapelot@email.com

# Worship Updates

Blue Christmas Service & Light supper – November 30 – 5:00 PM (supper)6:00 PM - service

**Reminder** : November 30 will be two services at the usual times. This is the first Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday – December 24 – 6:00 PM – Sanctuary – musical prelude starts @ 5:30 PM

December 28 – Combined Worship(Hymn Sing) – 9:00 AM – Sanctuary  
SS @ 10:15 ( if class is meeting)



Dec 4	Youth night 6:30 – 8
Dec 7	Sunday Schl optional
Dec 11	Youth night 6:30 – 8
Dec 14	Sunday Schl 9:15 – 10:15
Dec 18	Youth night 6:30 – 8 (Christmas Caroling)
Dec 21	Sunday Schl 9:15 – 10:15
Dec 28	Sunday School 10:15



## Youth Update:

Hello everyone! I wanted to start off with what the youth have been up to over the last month. We did a 4 week study on miracles and it was awesome. We dove into 4 different miracles of Jesus and we learned a lot about the character of Christ and how amazing Jesus ministry was on earth. During the Advent season we are going to be looking into a few of the events that happened up to the birth of our Lord focusing on Gods redemptive story to His creation. We continue to see some awesome growth in the youth group both spiritually and new youth coming and worshipping with us! We are excited for some upcoming opportunities for service in our community including Christmas caroling at a few nursing homes on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. If anyone has any interest in seeing what the youth do every week, please feel free to come and worship with us every Thursday at 6:30-8p

## Young Adults!

Young Adults is going very well! And we are excited to see what God has for this group in the future. The Young adult group is for anyone who is ages 18-25. The young adults have moved into room B5 in the basement and will be meeting there for both Saturday evenings starting at 6pm. For Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. For Saturday the small group will include scripture study, discussion and prayer. The first study that we will be doing is Francis Chans study on the Gospel of Mark. If you or someone you know would be interested in something like this please reach out to Ian McKinnell and he will get you plugged in! [ian@chapelchurch.org](mailto:ian@chapelchurch.org)

My office hours are Monday 10:30AM to 1:30PM and Thursday from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM



## **NEEDS!**

If you are looking for a wonderful way to serve our King and Savior, consider using your helpful hands and loving heart to teach, assist, or watch our children. We are looking for individuals to hang with the children on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month. Additionally, we are seeking teachers and helpers to assist during Children's Church. Thanks so much for your desire to help this young generation of disciples to feel safe and seen in this chaotic world.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- **November 30<sup>th</sup>** – Service is NOT combined; HOWEVER, we will have no children's programming of any kind. This will be the first day of Advent, and I am working on an Advent activity for the children to take home!
- **December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary** – We want all our families to worship our newborn King together. We will not have nursery or childcare for this service.
- **December 28<sup>th</sup>** – Service is combined. We will not have children's programming for the morning.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

From nursery to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the children are following the same programming, simply adapted to their age. We are using The Biggest Story, a beautifully illustrated storybook, Bible, and video series that highlights God's faithfulness and always points to "The Snake Crusher" (Jesus!).

The elementary children are enjoying their separated classes. They have been challenged with learning a new Bible verse every week, and they have been doing fantastic! With the classes being separated into an older elementary and younger elementary, we are now able to include 2-6<sup>th</sup> graders in our upper elementary class for Children's Church.

If you have been following along, you might have heard come 2026, the children will remain in the Education Wing in their classrooms instead of worshipping separately with the adults. You may also have heard me say once or twice flexibility is KEY to children's ministry. We have already transitioned to the children remaining in the education wing full time! A rainy Sunday followed by a very windy Sunday set this into motion quicker than we were anticipating! The children and volunteers have adapted wonderfully, and the change has helped the flow immensely!

## **Looking Ahead:**

**Easter Event** – March 28 – more details to follow



## Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all that participated. We delivered 58 boxes. Next year we hope to increase that number.

## ***Debt Elimination Team (DET) Updates December 2025***

“But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *So let each one give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” –II Corinthians 9:6-7

### **End of Year Encouragement for the Chapel Family**

Re: becoming debt free **or** God’s goodness and faithfulness in light of indebtedness and maintaining the requirements of monthly bills, emergencies, payroll and ministry **or** THANKFULNESS in the season of Thanksgiving . . .

Dear Chapel Family:

Each of the above could be a single subject line – but all of the above **are** the subject line. Recently (11/17/25) at the annual Charge Conference, our presiding elder, Rev. Thaddeus Sales, posted the following day on his FB page (among many other celebrations), “. . . it truly felt like a celebratory prayer meeting. We celebrated the incredible debt reduction progress . . .”

And with that we applaud Chapel’s cheerful givers – you have demonstrated being cheerful givers by your faithfulness, generosity, sacrifice and dedication. The recent Fall Wall Campaign of Giving: **\$46,910** greatly helped to plummet the mortgage indebtedness to beyond  $\frac{3}{4}$  to paid in full – a goal that only one year ago felt impossible. The updated facts  $\downarrow$  speak for themselves.

**Traditions Bank mortgage: current (11/26/25) balance: \$129,183**

**\$56,401 less than 10/26/25 report (\$185,584)**

**Traditions Bank beginning mortgage balance: \$525,893**

***New Goal: Paid in Full***

**→ 20-year mortgage (240 months) @ 6.25% - monthly payment \$3,896**

**→ *Years/months remaining* – 3 years / *Balloon repayment plan*: 6/26/28**

**→ *Interest paid to Traditions Bank since 6/2023*: \$55,970**

**→ *Total Interest paid since 2012 (several institutions inc. Traditions)*: \$646,747**

### ***Updates for Completed or Continuing Fundraising . . .***

Scrap Metal (started 9/23)	\$10,356.00	Online Sales (started 6/24)	\$3,768.00
Gift Cards (2025 sales)	\$ 585.64	Make a Joyful Noise (started 2/24)	\$2,712.00
Apple Dumplings (11/4/25) – thanks to Crusaders and Families for Christ SS classes			\$255.00

***Mister Car Wash certificates available for sale* – until sold out - purchase from Charlie Hess. \$10 base exterior cards and \$20 platinum exterior cards**

**Community Book Sale January 23-24, 2026** – (inclement weather date t/b/a) with the church library being dismantled and books we saved from the car show book sale, we are planning a longer book sale and giving you another opportunity to donate books, CD’s, DVD’s and puzzles. Place on the shelves inside the Education Wing doorway.

***“ABC Evening”*** May 16, 2026 – details coming in 2026 / see Deb Fickes for questions

**8am Choir and Special Music update:**

**Choir Singing Sundays through December 2025:**

**Dec 7**

**Dec 24**

**Dec 21**

**Upcoming special music dates are:**

**December 14 – Wendy Tobias and friends – Harp Trio**

**Chow Chow**

There is a good supply of chow-chow available for your holiday meals and gift giving. Quarts are \$10 and Pints are \$5. Contact Jerry Henry or the church office.



Welcome to Missions! Have a need that you want to share with Missions, know someone who may need assistance, want to get involved but you're not sure what opportunities are available... email: [missions@chapelchurch.org](mailto:missions@chapelchurch.org).

Chapel Church had the honor and privilege to bless individuals and organizations at the end of the year, because of your faithful support. Thank you!

1. Travel support for Matt Wiemeyer: \$1000
2. Hurricane Relief for Jamaica: \$4000
3. 18 South, Balance to bridge difference needed for shower: \$400
4. Shower Ministry Christmas Luncheon: \$350
5. Ore Valley PTO, items for nurses to give to students: socks, undergarments, pants, etc: \$500
6. Ore Valley PTO for student activities and support: \$500
7. Mazie Gable PTO, items for nurses to give to students: socks, undergarments, pants, etc: \$500
8. Mazie Gable PTO for student activities and support: \$500
9. Toilet Paper for LifePath: \$1000

On Sunday, November 16th during morning worship, the Winterstown UMC Parsonage caught fire and the home was destroyed. Chapel Church reached out to Winterstown UMC and provided \$500 in LifePath gift cards and \$500. Please keep our sisters and brothers at Winterstown UMC in prayer.

In His Service,

Susan Workinger

Missions Chair

[missions@chapelchurch.org](mailto:missions@chapelchurch.org)

**Memorial Contributions for 18South Youth Center:** Our church received \$1,600 in memorial contributions for 18South in memory of Terry Bluett. Our Missions Team has agreed there is enough funds to cover the remaining amount to install a needed shower for the youth at 18South, which will cost approximately \$2,000. Our family is overwhelmed with the donations from friends and family to accomplish this mission project in Terry's memory. Thank you to all of you for your blessed support, Bonnie Bluett and Family



Mark your December calendar, if you haven't already, and come enjoy a short visit to Bethlehem.

Help is still needed for scene prep, some traffic control in the parking lot, more carolers, the Magi, and most importantly > Mary and Joseph.

Please let Muriel, Heather, Mary Ann know how you would like to help. We also have need of a few spotlights for certain areas where the scenes and signage are set up, as well as at least one more fire pit (small smokeless type), so if you have one to loan it would be appreciated.

\*stuff give-away baggies for distribution as vehicles exit

\*place lighting in the grove areas along the drive; hang lights at the bandstand

\*place/prepare firepits in four areas (wood is available)



**Come out and support local small businesses. Food is also for sale.**

**All the profits from this event are given to Chapel.**



### Chapel Family Christmas Card Exchange

If you enjoy sending and receiving holiday greetings from friends and family in the 'old-fashioned' and 'time-honored' way of sending cards, here is a reminder and an update on our congregational card exchange - with no stamps needed! As shared in last month's newsletter, it looks a bit different this year but same idea.

Reminder: if you attend second service or arrive earlier for classes, please stop in at the main entrance with any cards and to look for those written to you and your family.

~~~~~

- \*prepare you greeting cards and envelopes
- \*bring them to the church on the Sundays before Christmas day or bring them anytime that you are going to be at church for other activities and meetings
- \*deliver the cards in the 'mailbox' bin which is located inside the main entrance on a small table near the stairwell - can't miss it!
- \*place the cards behind the appropriate alphabetized dividers
- \*look for cards written to you under the letter for your last name\*\*it is suggested that cards for homebound or ill church family would be mailed so that they have the joy of receiving greetings and know that we are praying for them\*\*



**Sunday - December 14 - 6:00 PM**

**Parish Bldg**

Come enjoy a light supper and fellowship. Write down any praises or prayers ( these will not be shared) so that we can pray over them with you. Although we won't be hanging ornaments on the tree, there will be some lights and some Christmas carol singing.

Contact Kristina Ogurcak with any questions.



**SATURDAY – January 3rd – 9:00 AM-PARISH BUILDING**

Join us for good food and fellowship with the men of Chapel Church

Topic – Planning Ministry Opportunities for 2026

Contact Ryan Ogurchak with any questions.

## Adult Small Group Study Classes

| CLASS                           | CURRENT STUDY                               | WHEN                                               | WHERE                | INSTRUCTOR                                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| God & Bible                     | Letters from the Apostle Paul               | Sunday 9:15 AM                                     | Lounge               | Muriel Slenker                            |
| Crusaders for Christ            | The Gospel of John                          | Sunday 9:15 AM                                     | Ed Wing – A4         | Various                                   |
| Families for Christ             | Parables for Today                          | Sunday 9:15 AM                                     | Fellowship Hall      |                                           |
| Women Together                  | The Power of the Holy spirit's Names        | Sunday 9:15 AM                                     | Ed Wing – A6         | Dorain Foote                              |
| Couples for Christ              | The Book of Jude                            | Sunday 9:15 AM                                     | Basement- Choir Room | Ogurcak \ McCleary                        |
| Men's Class                     | Will start up again in January Stay tuned!! |                                                    |                      | Ryan Ogurcak, Pastor Josh, Chuck Vucetich |
| Women's Class                   | Motherhood Together                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6:30 PM | Lounge               | Hope McKinnell                            |
| ROMEO                           | Men's Breakfast                             | Monday Morning 9:00 AM                             | Two Brothers Café    | Bill Leight                               |
| GEMS                            | Women's Breakfast                           | Friday Morning 8:15 AM                             | Red Lion Corner Café |                                           |
| Women's Prayer Group Initiative |                                             | 2nd & 4th Monday 8:15 AM                           | Lounge               | Gaye Ludwig \ Wendy Tobias                |
| Men's Prayer Group              |                                             | Monday 6:30 PM                                     | Lounge               |                                           |
| Young Adults                    | "Gospel of Mark"                            | Sat 6:00 PM & Sunday 9:15 AM                       | Basement – B5        | Ben Wise and Molly Conrad                 |
|                                 |                                             |                                                    |                      |                                           |

## 2025 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

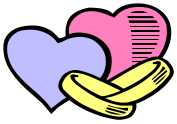
---

| NAME                | TITLE     | EMAIL                                                                  | PHONE          |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Arnie Fritzius      | Chair     | <a href="mailto:afritzius@comcast.net">afritzius@comcast.net</a>       | (717) 578-9664 |
| Larry Orwig         |           | <a href="mailto:LO61250@comcast.net">LO61250@comcast.net</a>           | (717) 847-8967 |
| Chloe Getz          |           | <a href="mailto:csmith730003@gmail.com">csmith730003@gmail.com</a>     |                |
| Jeff Schaeberle     |           | <a href="mailto:schaeb@yahoo.com">schaeb@yahoo.com</a>                 | (717) 870-0376 |
| Deb Angel           |           | <a href="mailto:dangel3184@gmail.com">dangel3184@gmail.com</a>         | (717) 757-3675 |
| Pam Vucetich        |           | <a href="mailto:chuckandpamv@aol.com">chuckandpamv@aol.com</a>         | (717) 515-0078 |
| Brian Elicker       |           | <a href="mailto:belicker67@gmail.com">belicker67@gmail.com</a>         | (717) 371-8536 |
| Cassie Durham-Koons |           | <a href="mailto:5Disfans@comcast.net">5Disfans@comcast.net</a>         | (717) 818-0036 |
| Ryan Ogurcak        |           | <a href="mailto:ryan.ogurcak@listrak.com">ryan.ogurcak@listrak.com</a> | (717) 449-1971 |
| Debi Deller         | Treasurer | <a href="mailto:debideller@comcast.net">debideller@comcast.net</a>     |                |
| Josh Wargo          | Pastor    | <a href="mailto:josh@chapelchurch.org">josh@chapelchurch.org</a>       | (570) 606-5989 |

## STAFF

---

| NAME             | TITLE                      | EMAIL                                                                  | PHONE              |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Josh Wargo       | Pastor                     | <a href="mailto:josh@chapelchurch.org">josh@chapelchurch.org</a>       | (570) 606-5989     |
| George Bradshaw  | Worship Leader-10:30       | <a href="mailto:george@chapelchurch.org">george@chapelchurch.org</a>   |                    |
| Maria Gagliardi  | Children's Dr              | <a href="mailto:maria@chapelchurch.org">maria@chapelchurch.org</a>     |                    |
| Ian McKinnell    | Dr of Youth & Discipleship | <a href="mailto:ian@chapelchurch.org">ian@chapelchurch.org</a>         |                    |
| George Bradshaw  | Campus Coordinator         | <a href="mailto:george@chapelchurch.org">george@chapelchurch.org</a>   |                    |
| Deb Fickes       | Worship Leader-8:00        | <a href="mailto:deb@chapelchurch.org">deb@chapelchurch.org</a>         |                    |
| Steve Wilt       | Media Arts                 | <a href="mailto:steve@chapelchurch.org">steve@chapelchurch.org</a>     |                    |
| Mary Ann Tierney | Admin Asst                 | <a href="mailto:maryann@chapelchurch.org">maryann@chapelchurch.org</a> | 717-244-6375 – ofc |
| Bertie Wallick   | Secretary                  | <a href="mailto:bertie@chapelchurch.org">bertie@chapelchurch.org</a>   | 717-244-6375 - ofc |
| Linda Conner     | Nursery Dr                 | <a href="mailto:Lindac4@comcast.net">Lindac4@comcast.net</a>           |                    |
| Cheyenne Fix     | Custodian                  | <a href="mailto:cheypunmj@hotmail.com">cheypunmj@hotmail.com</a>       |                    |
| Dave Keller      | Organist                   |                                                                        |                    |
| Jim Fry          | Maintenance                | <a href="mailto:Frydaddy36@yahoo.com">Frydaddy36@yahoo.com</a>         |                    |
| Debi Deller      | Treasurer                  | <a href="mailto:debideller@comcast.net">debideller@comcast.net</a>     |                    |



# Happy Birthday & Anniversary:

|                       |       |                         |        |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------|--------|
| Roy & Sylvia Smeltzer | Dec 1 | Scott & Krysta Tyson    | Dec 13 |
| Toby & Kathy Shoff    | Dec 3 | Ryan & Kristina Ogurcak | Dec 17 |
| Dan & Lana Cooley     | Dec 7 |                         |        |
|                       |       |                         |        |



|                    |        |                             |        |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Charlie Hess       | Dec 1  | Reagan Hahn                 | Dec 13 |
| Karla McCleary     | Dec 1  | Milly Sedgwick              | Dec 17 |
| Anthony Angel      | Dec 4  | Theresa Hahn                | Dec 18 |
| Gaye Ludwig        | Dec 4  | Donald Holtzapple           | Dec 18 |
| Heather Stem       | Dec 5  | Dick Poff                   | Dec 19 |
| Jane Dehoff        | Dec 5  | Izzy McWilliams             | Dec 21 |
| Ron Lighty         | Dec 6  | Carol Blessing              | Dec 22 |
| Steve Miller       | Dec 7  | Peggy Fry                   | Dec 22 |
| Beth Balash        | Dec 8  | Joyce Null                  | Dec 24 |
| Jean Chubb         | Dec 9  | Muriel Slenker              | Dec 25 |
| Jerry Henry        | Dec 9  | Mary Ann Hildebrand-Tierney | Dec 26 |
| Christine Sprengel | Dec 10 | Phyllis Fisher              | Dec 27 |
| Barry Little       | Dec 11 | Chris Schaeberle            | Dec 28 |
| Ginny Farrell      | Dec 13 | Ben Koons                   | Dec 29 |

Chapel Church  
3050 Cape Horn Rd  
Red Lion, PA 17356

Return Service Requested



*“ worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly..”*

Go to our website

And catch up with what’s happening at Chapel!

[Chapelchurch.org](http://Chapelchurch.org)