



From the Pastor

December 2020

Vol. 42 No. 12

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This Advent & Christmas season we are focusing on the concept of hope as we celebrate Jesus Christ bringing this hope into world yet again. Hope is a feeling of expectation that something helpful will happen and it implies a level of trust. In the New Testament, the word *elpizó* is used to describe an active waiting for God's fulfillment of the faith that Jesus brought to humanity through the power of His love, and the word *elpis* describes an expectation of what is sure or certain. It seems appropriate that in this particular season we are both waiting for what the power of Christ's love will do and also certain that it will happen. We are waiting with a trust-filled hope that Jesus will "break into" our world again to bring us along on our journey towards wholeness – towards God's beloved community – towards the Kingdom of God.

This is what we proclaim of our faith in the midst of a very uncertain time. We may not know what will happen tomorrow, but we trust in God to be with us. We may not know when we will gather at a table again with our friends, but we trust that Jesus is at our table every time we are. We may not know when we will be able to touch others again, but we trust the Spirit's presence is hugging us whenever and wherever we are in need. Our trust is based on the story of man named Jesus of Nazareth who was human and divine. In this season we wait with the expectation and anticipation of Elizabeth and Mary for the birth of love.

We live in this already and not-yet time of hearing the story, trusting in God's current work and expectation of a future rooted more closely to God's dream for humanity. It seems that we may be more aware of it this year than ever before as we know what we had and yet long for something similar in the future. We are living through a worldwide health crisis and invitation to see the world differently and act in more loving and compassionate ways with one another. As God chose very common people through which to act in our world, we are challenged to change our perceptions of those who are not like us for God may have chosen them to "wake us up" to the ways we hurt one another and instead value others as children of God.

May our journey this Advent & Christmas bring us a bit closer Jesus Christ and the love of God for all! Please prayerfully consider how we will move forward together!

Blessings & peace,

Pastor Kuhn



**Connect with us
virtually at**



Member Spotlight

A new addition to the crown spotlighting members of the congregation sharing news

Keep an eye on the Lancaster Newspaper's Living Section in Mid-December!

Read Doug Nutt's article that was accepted in LNP's section called I KNOW A STORY, to find out about his

"spontaneous, fantastic, surprise, when a God miracle" happen during Christmas.

Thank you Doug for letting us know, we will keep you all informed when it is printed!



PEACE, JOY & THANK YOU

I have been incredibly blessed
* by this congregation.
Throughout the month of
October, each day I would *
open one or two of the many
pastor appreciation cards you
shared with me. Each day
they would bring a smile to my
face and warmth to my heart.
Thank you for your words of
encouragement, inspiration,
and care. You are a blessing! *



Sincerely In Christ,
Pastor Motz



Financial Commitments For 2021

If you have not yet returned your financial commitment card for 2021 to the church office, please do so as soon as possible using the stamped envelope provided in the mailing from the Stewardship Commission. With the return of your commitment card you will be joining the dozens of other households who have shared their pledges of faith, hope, and love for God's ministry to be lived out through Church of the Apostles.

With Thanks,

The Stewardship Commission

stewardship

Giving Report for October 2020

	October 2020	October 2019
Cash Flow	(\$185,578.54)	(\$59,907.33)
Operating Expenses	\$560,712.44	\$437,978.00
Revenue	\$361,639.90	\$378,070.67

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Crown: 12/24/20

Indoor Service
Suspended until notice

Online Sunday
Bulletins & Worship
Login at:
<https://apostlesucc.org/sermons>



From the Council President

Here we are at the end of another year; and what a year it has been. From raging fires, murder hornets, race riots, and a global pandemic – 2020 has seen it all. This year has shown us that “normal” does not exist and has pushed us to be creative and supportive of each other in new ways. We have had socially distanced our joy and losses as we have navigated this time together. We have heard a lot about heroes in 2020. Not the heroes the fight crime in the comics, but those who keep the world safe, just the same. We have championed our doctors and nurses, the grocers and teachers. Sometimes a reset is needed to show the world what is important. 2020 has given us that reset. More and more families are at home with one another around the dinner table. Connections are important, and we see that now – plain and clear.

The Bible was full of heroes that stood up in the face of adversity. Though the heroes we read about in the Bible, be it Noah, Abraham, John, Jacob, Esther, Moses, Paul....Jesus; all had one thing in common. They had God; his love and mercy to see them through the difficulties. Their choices were not the easy ones, but the faith they had in God was greater than any decision to be made. They walked with God, talked with God, and most importantly they trusted God.

Through all the trials and tribulations of this year, and as we enter the advent season, let us remember where our strength comes from. Trust in the Lord in the good times and the bad, and what seems insurmountable will be but an easy feat.

So look for those unsuspecting heroes in your life and let them know what they mean to you – because the connections, we have learned, mean so much. We will try to make this easier for you by adding a new segment to the Crown. This “Spotlight” will share the good things our congregation is doing in the world! Be sure to look for the first featured congregate!

As this is my last message to the congregation as your council president, I want to take one last moment to express my gratitude to you all. The last two years have not been easy to say the least, but it has been a joy to serve the church in this way. The grace, compassion, encouragement, and compliments have not gone unnoticed and I thank each and every one of you.

Blessings,

Christa DiDomenico



Council Corner – November Meeting

- Installation of new live streaming/live broadcasting equipment will begin end of November.
- Our current online reach is approx. 45-75 views/week on YouTube, and about 174 views on Facebook!
- Growth Taskforce is focusing on how to unify the church vision/mission
- A congregational letter will go out with the results from the most recent congregational survey
- Pictures and bio of new members will be put in The Crown
- Council will continue to work on clarity in our communication with the congregation
- The Reopening Taskforce will continue to monitor local COVID-19 cases, and follow state guidelines for remaining open.
- Commission chairs are being asked to send a current list of members to the office for reference.

If you are interested in serving on a commission (Education, Parish Life, Stewardship, Outreach, Property, or Worship), please contact the office, and you will be put in touch with the commission chair. New members are ALWAYS WELCOME!

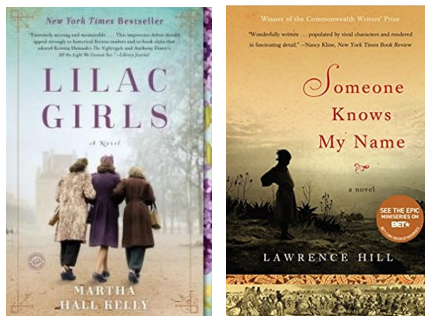
Jeannie

Parish Life

The COA Book club continues to meet the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 in the Parlor. We wear masks and observe social distancing. We will be discussing *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelley on Dec 8th. January 12th we will discuss *Someone Knows My Name* by Lawrence Hill. Feb. When *Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin. March *Guilty Wives* by James Patterson. Please consider joining us whether or not you read the book.

Any questions
call Clara
Kosmela

717 569-9960.



Apostle's Walk/Run 5K Club Success!

On November 8th we celebrated the conclusion of 9 weeks of spiritual growth and physical care by hosting a walk/run 5K on the campus of Church of the Apostles and Homestead Village.

Fourteen individuals, from a wide range of ages participated. This group represented a portion of the individuals who had participated throughout the 9 weeks. Words of appreciation, connection, accomplishment, and growth were shared by the participants who shared in the journey.

Thank you to Chuck Erisman for helping to mark the course, Tom Weaver for traffic control, Lars Potteiger for start/finish line preparations, members who shared in the sidewalk chalk drawing, and the participants who made this experience such a joy!

Running with Joy,

Pastor Motz



Outreach

SPECIAL OFFERING for **HOFFMAN HOMES** (Littlestown) and **BETHANY HOMES** (Womelsdorf) We have become so accustomed to seeing this special offering envelope, that we give at Christmas time without thinking. This year, **THINK** about it!

A kid acts out at home and school. What will bring her “around”? And who has time or energy to do that? Special ed classes make her sure she’s so different she’s hopeless. She “self injures”. She’s hospitalized, the Hospital says “she’s stable”. family says “she’s too much”....school says “we aren’t making progress”. Referral to “Residential Treatment Center”.



Enter **Hoffman Homes**. [[see hoffmanhomes.com/success-stories](https://hoffmanhomes.com/success-stories)]

Imagine this scenario: you are 12 years old, and almost 2,000 miles away from the only home you’ve ever known. In 2019, **Bethany Homes** began “[Helping Hands](#),” a program to help migrant children and youth - many of whom are victims of human trafficking or es-

capees of dangerous environments- reunite with their families already in the United States. [see bethany-home.org, or chhsm.org/news/tag/bethany-childrens-home]



Bethany Children's Home

The OT is full of admonitions to look after those less fortunate. And, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Gospel of Matthew specifically mentions orphans and children. (Matt 18:5; 25:36-40)

Education



MARK HARRIS
survivor
former trafficking victim
pastor

in Conversation with Linda Crockett

SURVIVOR VOICES

Thursday, December 3, 2020
6:30 pm EST, via Zoom

Register at SafeCommunitiesPa.org

ADULT EDUCATION

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:

A Study of the Book of Romans
Led by Pastor Bob Peiffer a “retired”
clergyman who serves three
churches but will make time for us.

**We’ll meet from 10 to 11am each
Wednesday in January and the
first two Wednesdays in February.**

Whatever the weather,
or COVID, we’ll find a way to meet and discuss
Paul’s message to the Christians of Rome.

Contact Barbara Achtermann to sign up for the
class, order the study guide, or ask questions:
717-824-3265, bachtermann@comcast.net
or call the church office.

A Musical Note

Bells have a long standing history in Christian worship and are often found in the steeples of many churches. Bells also play an important role in other cultures and traditions and were first cast in metal in China about 4000 years ago. These unique instruments have been used for many purposes over the centuries: in religious ceremonies, to communicate prayer times and communicating messages, and for music making. Bells are the oldest instrument that we use in worship, besides the human voice.

The use of bells in religious ritual are mentioned in Exodus describing how priests are to adorn themselves in the temple:

31 "Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, 32 with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear. 33 Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. 34 The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. 35 Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord and when he comes out, so that he will not die. (Exodus 28: 31-35 NIV)

What a beautiful sounding garment! You may associate bells ringing with the joy of the Christmas season, a time to slow down your breathing if you're doing a yoga or a meditation session, or time for dinner. I have begun to work with the Bell Choir at

Church of the Apostles. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone that has an interest in ringing with the Bell Choir to contact me at larsp@apostles.com, regardless of prior bell playing experience. If you can clap your hands, you can make a joyful noise with a bell.

May God's peace and presence fill your heart this Christmas season and be your guiding light of hope.

Blessings,

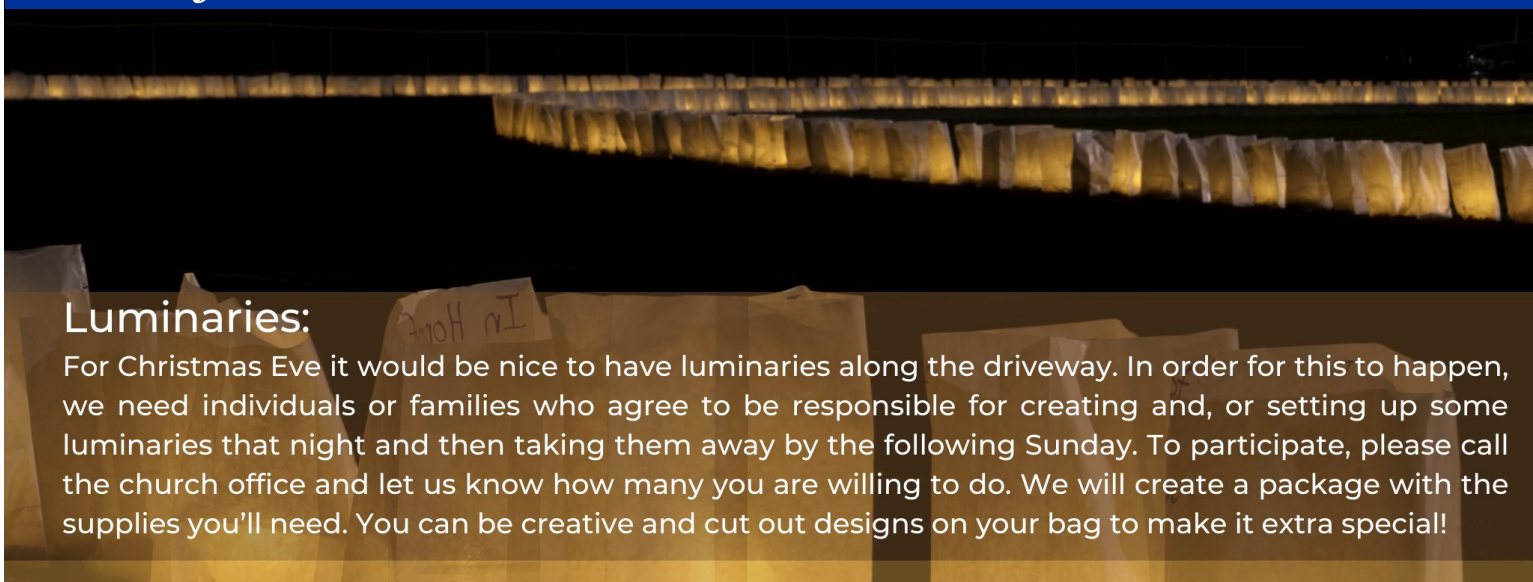
Lars



Caroling around Homestead:

Homestead Village is willing to allow us to set up some fire bowls at strategic places on the campus so that folks could sing with masks and proper distancing for the residents who cannot come out to experience some Christmas Spirit on Christmas Eve. Please call the church office and let us know if you would be interested in the Caroling!

Festival of Christmas



Luminaries:

For Christmas Eve it would be nice to have luminaries along the driveway. In order for this to happen, we need individuals or families who agree to be responsible for creating and, or setting up some luminaries that night and then taking them away by the following Sunday. To participate, please call the church office and let us know how many you are willing to do. We will create a package with the supplies you'll need. You can be creative and cut out designs on your bag to make it extra special!



Fire bowls:

As Christmas Eve attendance far exceeds our indoor COVID capacity, we will have a simple service of no more than 30 minutes outside at the portico entrance as we did during our outdoor worship. We will have a live brass band to play carols and LED candles for the playing of "Silent Night." To help keep folks a bit warmer, we are asking for individuals who have patio fire bowls and are willing to bring them out and tend to them on the grass and driveway areas to let us know. It would be lovely to be able to warm up by a fire as we listen to the story and are reminded of this very special night!



Nativity scenes (Crèches):

We are inviting you to share with us a nativity scene that you own so that it can be included in displays within our main narthex. It is our hope to create at least two areas where several different nativity scenes are displayed for people to see while they are in the building during the Advent/Christmas season. We would love to have nativity scenes that represent different cultures or places as we broaden our minds on the significance of Jesus' birth to the world.

Worship, Prayer and Sharing



Worship Schedule

In person worship is suspended until further notice. Please watch for updates.

Online worship will be continuing as we learn the new live streaming system.

DECEMBER Preaching Schedule

December 6th—Rev. Motz
 December 13th—Rev. Kuhn
 December 22nd—Rev. Kuhn
 December 24th—Rev. Kuhn
 December 27th—Beth Thompson

PHONE: Call 717-607-1850 to listen or play back archive services.

Online through our website: <https://apostelsucc.org/worship-times/>

Give the Gift of Connection – Send a Postcard

For many individuals, especially those without internet access or a comfort with technology, this has been the longest season they have gone without being connected to Christ and the church through worship. To say this has been “a dark night of the soul” is an understatement for those whose life’s foundation has been grounded in weekly acts of worship and devotion. And now the potential is to lose Advent and Christmas as well.

For this reason we’ve developed a worship by phone option where people can worship anywhere, anytime, on any phone simply by dialing our worship line (717-607-1850). But how do we get the word out to loved ones and friends, devote followers and believers who may not be as connected? Maybe the answer is found through you.

Garden Celebration!

Collecting food from our garden in Rader Park ended with our last food delivered by our faithful driver to the Hempfield Food Pantry on the first Monday of October. The grand total was 804 pounds. Now we are getting the gardens ready for winter.

A big thank you to the regular volunteers- Milt Gockley (who also had a separate corn garden), Bonnie Eshbach (and occasional grandson), Betty Reiff (who also helps with the flower gardens in the park), and Barbara Golden. Also, thanks to Tom Weaver who refurbished the wooden boxes in the spring and was always available when needed.

Carol Nielsen



Betty & her “friend”



Abundance of Peppers!

Included in this newsletter are 2 postcards highlighting the worship by phone option. Please prayerfully consider who you are

being called to send these cards to, along with a personal note or a call, letting them know about this resource (and maybe your church). Honestly this could be a lifeline for so many who are feeling lost and forgotten in this time of social distancing and un-intended isolation. Thank you for being God’s grace and love to another



Outreach

Toys for Tot Project

CARING & SHARING



New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off in the collection boxes located in the narthex or the west lobby
There is a special need for toys for ages 0 – 2 and 9 – 12
Toys are distributed by the Marine Corps to needy children in Lancaster during the week of December 7th.

Last drop off date at the church will be Sunday, December 6th

Go to the website at www.toysfortots.org for information on how to donate toys virtually, or how to make a monetary donation. Thanks in advance for your kind consideration.
Any questions, please contact Linda Lewis at 717-392-7437.



Market Basket (Grocery cards)

Our sale of Grocery cards is continuing.

We will be taking orders **in the vestibule** on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of December following worship. There will be order forms available. After completed you can attach your payment and place it in the appropriate box. You may pick up your cards on the 1st or 2nd week in January. Safety of everyone is our concern.

If you wish to purchase Stouffers, Giant or Weis cards before January I will take orders by phone or email. If there are enough pre-purchased cards I will order them in early December rather than later. Payment can be exchanged for the cards on Sunday mornings or elsewhere, at your convenience. Checks will still be made out to COA with Market Basket on the note line.

You may contact me, Karen Helmeczi (**717-299-2972**), or email me at kjhelmeczi@gmail.com and I can arrange to meet you on Sunday mornings or elsewhere at your convenience. I live at Homestead Village so I am near the church. My address is: **1832 Westcott Drive.**

If you have any questions please call me or see me on Sunday mornings. (My photo isn't in the directory yet so you may have to ask someone to point me out.)

Karen Helmeczi

Thank You For Exploring E-giving!

Thank you to everyone who explored the new electronic giving option and provided feedback on how we might improve its use and functionality. Since the beginning of October 22 people have used this giving option, with 14 of these individuals signing up for regular, recurring contributions.

This nearly doubles the number of people who had previously been giving by direct deposit. Even more importantly there has been a high level of positive feedback on the ease people have found in giving this way.

As noted in last month's newsletter, everyone who tried e-giving in these last 6 weeks were entered into a raffle for one of the four \$25 gift cards. The raffle winners were Kelly Brown, Laurey Williams, Teresa & Frank Wilson, and Cathy Kenlin.

If you have not tried out e-giving yet, you can do so any time. Simply go to apostlesucc.org/give. It is easy to use, safe, secure, and we are always here to help!

GIVE PLUS⁺
Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

November Celebrations

Happy Anniversary

Barto, Kathryn M.	12/27/1953	Gockley, Rev Milton E. (Milt)	12/13/1946
Cliff, Steven	12/21/1968	Herr, Patricia A.	12/01/1990
Clouser, Dan	12/28/1993	Klingler, Wilma G.	12/27/1959
Clouser, Teresa	12/28/1993	Kolb, Gordon S.	12/30/1995
Cochran, David	12/26/1987	Kreider Jr, Dr Walter	12/26/1954
Duncan, Raymond F.	12/29/1995	Kreider, Peggy	12/26/1954
Fehnel, Rev Richard P. (Dick)	12/19/1953	Van Buskirk, Mischelle	12/23/1977
Fickes, Mr Daniel G. (Dan)	12/21/1957	Van Buskirk, Peter	12/23/1977
Fickes, Mrs Berenice S. (Bernie)	12/21/1957	Widdowson Jr, David L.	12/02/1995
		Young, Rev Jacqueline Church (Jacquie)	12/10/1994
		Young, Scott Gregory	12/10/1994

Happy Birthday!

*90+ Birthdays

Name	Date Of Birth		
Beaner, Vickey L.	12/05/1954	Harter, Mrs Mary S. (Molly)	12/02/1921 *
Berger, Mr Chad G.	12/18/1975	Hess, Mr Donald F. (Don)	12/28/1946
Berger, Vicki	12/20/1952	Hess, Michael D. (Mike)	12/19/1947
Bischoff, Mr Jason S.	12/03/1979	Hess, Mrs Sherry L.	12/13/1967
Bracken, Liviah	12/16/2016	Hoffman, Beverly A.	12/13/1940
Braine, Richard L. (Rich)	12/24/1949	Kenlin, Catherine M. (Cathy)	12/21/1962
Braun, Conner	12/06/1999	Kleimo, Holly R.	12/21/1950
Cardellino, Mrs Eleanor J.	12/02/1942	Laymon, Andrew Sawyer	12/07/2015
Carr, Emma Rose	12/10/2009	Leser, Mrs Kirsten K.	12/19/1971
Cover, Mrs Patricia Ruth (Pat)	12/27/1930 *	Lockey III, Dr Stephen D.	12/29/1937
Daggett, Mrs Emily Joiner	12/18/1973	Martin, Kayla Marie	12/31/1991
Duncan, Rachel Lynn	12/05/1998	Maxwell, Donna Joan	12/21/1953
Emig, Carol B.	12/16/1953	Medved, Ms Sarah E.	12/29/1988
Ferguson, Ms Brenda Jane (Brenda)	12/08/1960	Newport, Stella	12/09/2010
Flynn, Kathleen (Kitty)	12/06/1952	Rampaul, Stephanie N.	12/19/1980
Fuller, Mr Edward F. (Ed)	12/27/1944	Rohrbaugh, Mrs Erin Lynn	12/27/1983
Ginter, Mr Nathan	12/26/1980	Schock, Linda A.	12/13/1946
Harris, Mason J.	12/07/2005	Schulmeister, Robert F.	12/09/1935
		Smedley, Joyce S.	12/23/1929 *
		Souders, Connie L.	12/20/1960
		Stover, Nancy J.	12/31/1935
		Walters, Dan	12/30/1975
		Walters, Molly	12/26/2014
		Wenner, Marie Y.	12/21/1930 *
		Williams, Laurey A.	12/23/1955
		Zabel, Mrs Louise Virginia	12/16/1942

Council Members

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Ph: 717-615-1649 • Email: andy.smith@bbandt.com

Secretary: Jeanne Clausen

Ph: 717-201-9330 • Email: jean-nie.joel@gmail.com

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 306)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395 • Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

Outreach Commission

(Meets 2nd Monday, every other month/Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844 •

Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

Parish Life Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 304)

Co-Chair: Clara Kosmela

Ph: 717-468-3492 • Email: joli6291@yahoo.com

Co-Chair: Donna Carr (as listed under VP)

Property Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month/Rm 305)

Chair: Herb Forry

Ph: 717-201-7863 • Email: heforry@comcast.net

Stewardship Commission

(Meets the second Thursday of the month/ Rm 304)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526 • Email: galspach@aol.com

Worship Commission

(Meets the first Tuesday of the month/Rm 111)

Chair: Bernie Fickes

Ph: 717-925-9155 • Email: penquindiva@verizon.net

JOIN THE PRAYER MINISTRY. . .

Link 1:

Steve & Monica Daniels (717) 299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com

Lynn Steedle (717) 390-4152 or ccsteedle@gmail.com

Link 2:

Mary Ellen Bachman (717) 393-8922

Susan Shaak (717) 872-2987

Doug Nutt (717) 283-2937

Link 3:

Annette Rohloff (717) 394-0424 or rexthomas@comcast.net

Bev Keller (717) 898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com

Cindy Williams (717) 572-3808 or clwjbwilliams@gmail.com

Nancy Steger (717) 617-2635 or nancyasteger@gmail.com

Link 4:

Jean Heidig (717) 394-8733 or geojean6@gmail.com

Donna Carr (717) 475-5285 or skeetcarr@comcast.net



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Nathan Sheffer

Bell Choir Director

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

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Jonathan Shaub

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Christa DiDomenico