

First Church Of God
 1862 Mercer Rd
 Ellwood City, PA 16117
 724-758-7970
 www.ecfcog.org



December Family Night Meals
\$3.00 for adults - \$1.00 for children
(\$10.00 max. per family)

Date	Tables Set-up By	Meal Prepared By	Menu	Clean-up	Security
6	Boyd West Bill Challis	Brenda West Mary Challis	Chicken Parsley Potatoes Corn Costco Cake	Leslie Quinn Boyd West Bill Challis	Dale Pritchard
13	Ed Crawford Scott Jewell	Doris Crawford Stacy Jewell Doris Conklin	Soup Cake/Cookies Sign-up to bring cakes or cookies	Doris Conklin Leslie Quinn Ed Crawford	Ron VanHorn
20		6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	NO Wednesday Night Meal & Classes THIS Week	6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	Ed Crawford
27			NO Wednesday Night Program THIS Week		

DECEMBER

				NO Team Meetings in December	1	2 9:00 PM Prayer Time
3 8:45 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Morning Worship NOON Holiday Dinner	4 6:30 PM Volleyball	5	6 6:00 PM Chicken Meal 6:45 PM Children's Classes, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Study	7	8	9 5:00 PM Koinonia Sunday School Class Christmas Party 9:00 PM Prayer Time
10 8:45 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Morning Worship 6:00 PM Movie Night	11 6:30 PM Volleyball	12 11:00 AM Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon 6:30 PM Ladies' Christmas Party	13 6:00 PM Soup Meal 6:45 PM Children's Classes, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Study	14	15	16 8:00 AM Men's Small Group 9:00 PM Prayer Time
17 8:45 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Morning Worship	18 7:30 PM Volleyball	19	20 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	21	22	23 9:00 PM Prayer Time
24 8:45 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Morning Worship – Christ Birthday Offering	25 	26	27 NO Wednesday Night Program	28	29	30 9:00 PM Prayer Time
31 8:45 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Morning Worship						

DECEMBER - WORSHIP SCHEDULES

DATE	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	SPECIAL MUSIC	PRAISE TEAM	SOUND & VIDEO
3	Pastor Phil Conklin	Barry Freed	Jeff Syphrit	Connie LeViere Doris Conklin Boyd West	Fred Ziegler Jackie Syphrit
10	Pastor Phil Conklin	Cliff Kaufman	Cliff Kaufman	Kim Kaufman Donna Jones Boyd West	Jay Daugherty Beth Freed
17	Pastor Phil Conklin	Barry Freed	Men's Quartet	Kala Cunningham Lami Ziegler Barry Freed	Dave Cunningham Lisa Zeigler
24	Pastor Phil Conklin	Barry Freed	Barry Freed	Ashley Rugh Doris Conklin Boyd West	Dave Cunningham Jackie Syphrit
31	Pastor Phil Conklin	Jim Caldwell	Jim Caldwell	Autumn Heinz Donna Jones Boyd West	Fred Ziegler Connie Cunningham

DECEMBER - MINISTRY SCHEDULES

DATE	NURSERY	CHILDREN'S CHURCH	GREETERS	USHERS	DONUT SCHEDULE	SECURITY TEAM
3	Kathy Rugh India Cunningham	Brenda West Cheri Coulter Markae Pisano	Gail McClymonds & Leslie Quinn	Alan Fabritius Mike Wawrzynski Dale Brown Stephen Shafran	Bill & Mary Challis	Dale Brown Lobo Mitro
10	Jodi Hall Heather Pisano	April Haswell Ethan Ziegler	Donna Wright & Dorothy Myers	Skip LeViere Ed Crawford Ron VanHorn Mark Shaner	Bill & Rose Hufnagel	Ed Crawford Brad LeViere
17	April Haswell Keaira Cunningham	Jen Parks Heather Pisano Hunter Tritt	Paula VanHorn & Kay Edinger	Doug LeViere Skip LeViere Stephen Shafran Fred Ziegler	Ron & Paula VanHorn	Skip LeViere Jeff Syphrit
24	Jen Parks Cindy Hunter	Brenda West India Cunningham	Joyce Bucci & Betty Strohecker	Dale Pritchard Fred Tritt Bill Challis Dale Brown	Fred & Sharon Tritt	Dale Pritchard Dr. Roy Kerry
31	Lisa Zeigler Mary Challis	April Haswell Keaira Cunningham	Gail McClymonds & Leslie Quinn	John Hall Cody Ziegler Doug LeViere Alan Fabritius	Bill & Mary Challis	Alan Fabritius Mark Shaner

Dear Church Family,

Greetings and blessings to each and every one of you!! Hope this finds you enjoying all these beautiful higher than normal temperature days!! We know what is coming – and it sure is nice to see the sun shining out the window with temperatures in the fifties!!

Hard to believe that December is upon us! Seems like only yesterday we were enjoying our summer picnics together! At any rate, the Christmas season is here and with it the many and varied activities that go along with this very special holiday. There certainly are many opportunities to celebrate – Christmas carol singing, putting up the Christmas tree, shopping for the gifts we will buy our loved ones, visiting family and friends, special services and presentations at church, and just sitting around the Christmas tree for a few quiet moments.

Each and every one of those activities are exciting and have special meaning to us. We might get a little tired and weary along the way, but it is **WONDERFUL** to share in special times with family and friends – and to talk about our memories of the past and enjoy some new experiences together!

It is vitally important folks, however, to keep the reason for Christmas first and foremost in our hearts and minds! The entire story of how God created us to have a loving relationship with Him . . . and how we turned away from Him and have “gone our own way” (sinned) . . . and how the price of that sin caused us to face eternity separated from God in hell . . . and how “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him would NOT perish but have eternal life” . . . is **THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!** How very, **VERY** blessed we are to be counted as His children and have Him living within us each and every day!!

Doris and I wish each of you a very happy, healthy, and blessed Christmas holiday! We are trusting that you know and love **HIM** as you celebrate this Christmas with all your family, friends, and church family!! We love and appreciate you all – **MUCH!!** Thanks for a **GREAT** and **BLESSED** year together!!

*In His love and service,
Pastor Phil*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bonnie Fabritius
- 2 Jim Fatula
- 4 Lallie Sheeler
- 6 Chuck George
- 7 Kourtni LeViere
- 8 Lisa Zeigler
- 8 Arionna Wawrzynski
- 11 Pastor Phil Conklin
- 11 Meagan Myers
- 17 Jackie Syphrit
- 18 Linda LeViere
- 23 Zander Leddon
- 26 Brandon Haswell
- 27 Dale Pritchard
- 29 Bill Hufnagel Jr.
- 30 Drake VanHorn
- 30 Kalena Ziegler
- 31 Fred Ziegler
- 31 Harry Zeigler

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ed & Doris Crawford
- 10 Matt & Denise Bintrim
- 13 Larry & Mary Chandler
- 16 Scott & Stacy Jewell
- 27 Fred & Carrie Tillia
- 31 Brooks & Courtney LeViere



"Nativity Story"

We have the answer to the winter blues, come and join us as we open the doors to "The First Church of God Theater". We have movies that will put a smile on your face and help remove the stress from your day.

Come out on Sunday, Dec. 10th at 6:00pm and help us celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior by watching an old favorite "The Nativity Story". It was the cruelest of times, under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive and yet, in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith was put to the test. Join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery. The snack bar will once again be open, we ask that all snacks and drinks be consumed in the parlor area of the theater.

There will also be a tip jar for our set up and clean-up crew.

Please be watching your local listings for our full season of Christian movies coming your way in January, February, and March.



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 20th** (PLEASE NOTE DATE) at 6:00pm. Come celebrate Jesus' birth with family and friends as we share in this Christmas Eve "Candles, Carols, and Communion" service together. We will **NOT** have our regular Wednesday Night Program with the meal and classes that week.



Ladies' Christmas Party

Ladies are invited to our Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 6:30pm. We are asking everyone to bring new underwear, socks, hygiene products, and/or non-perishable snacks for the homeless that evening. Tanis Fox will be sharing with us about her ministry with the homeless men in Beaver Falls and we'd like to have a great collection of items to give to them. Please wear something **RED** or **GREEN** and join us for some food, fellowship, and fun as we share Christmas with each other and with those less fortunate. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway to attend.



January Craft

We are planning another ladies' craft night on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30pm to make "log" snowmen. Please sign up by the sample in the narthex. We can only take the first 20 ladies.

The cost is \$15.

Pastor's Christmas Gift

We are taking our annual collection for Pastor Phil and Doris' monetary Christmas gift. If you would like to give to this – please see Betty Shafran or Doug LeViere by Sunday, Dec. 17th.

Ladies' Group Christmas Collection

The Ladies' Group is hosting a "Christmas Collection for the Homeless" and we are asking the church to join us. We will be collecting **NEW** underwear, socks, hygiene products, and non-perishable snacks for men in the homeless shelter from Nov. 12th through Dec. 12th. Please bring in your items and place them in the box in the narthex.

EOB Team Clothing Collection

There is also a collection being held for **GENTLY USED CLEAN** clothing items.

These will be given to Table of Grace and Mission from Mars Homeless Organizations. Please clean out your closets and bring the items for the box at church **by**

Nov. 30th. We are in need of mostly men's clothing. The list includes: duffle bags, book bags, blankets, sweatshirts, coats, sweatpants, hoodies, tennis shoes, boots, t-shirts, flannel shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, long underwear, sleeping bags, hats, scarves, gloves, and tarps- you can get these free at Harbor Freight or for \$2 at Busy Beaver. If you have any questions – please see Kim Kaufman.



Church Holiday Dinner

Everyone is invited to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas together as a church family at our Annual Holiday Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 3rd following the morning worship. Ham, turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce,

rolls, drink, and table service will be provided. Please bring pies, coleslaw, sweet potatoes, or a jello salad to share. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Pumpkin Rolls

The youth will be selling pumpkin rolls for \$10.00 each. Please see Lami Ziegler or Ashley Rugh.



CoolClips.com

Christmas Card Fundraiser

The youth will be having a "Christmas Card Fundraiser" during the month of December. Please bring in your Christmas Cards to the church family AND a donation to the youth group for the postage starting Sunday, Nov. 26th through Sunday, Dec. 24th. The youth will deliver your cards each week. Look for the Christmas card table in the narthex.



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias for the "Poinsettia Tree" can be purchased "in Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" a loved one this Christmas Season. The cost is \$7.25 each. Please see Chris LeViere to order by Sunday, Dec. 10th. Order forms can be found in the weekly bulletins. The tree will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 17th through Sunday, Dec. 24th. You can take your poinsettias home on Sunday, Dec. 24th.

Christ Birthday Offering

Our Christ Birthday Offering "**Come Lord Jesus**" will be collected during an offering march in our morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24th. Please be in prayer about what you will give to this special offering that is used for missions and other needs at our state level of the Christian Women Connect. Please make checks payable to the First Church of God. Please be sure to pick up a Christ Birthday Devotional from the narthex table- one per family- to enjoy

together this Advent season. Children will be given special envelopes to collect their change in to give to the Christ Birthday Offering (CBO). (Sunday School pennies will not be collected during the month of December so the children can put their pennies in the CBO).

2018 Tithing Envelopes

Your 2018 tithing envelopes are available out on the pew in the front narthex. If you do not see your name and would like to receive envelopes, please see Church Financial Secretary – Connie LeViere.

Volunteers NEEDED

New schedules are being prepared and we are always needing volunteers to serve in many areas of the church. **Please let us know where you would like to get involved.** We need help with ushers, greeters, nursery workers, children church helpers, AND Wednesday night set-up, cooks, and clean-up crews. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** help share the work of the church together.

Pictorial Directory

It is that time again in the life of the church to put together a new Pictorial Directory! We will be working with Life Touch again and every portrait appointment will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and a free church pictorial directory. Please set March 23 – 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday Weekend) aside and plan to set up an appointment to have your photo taken. We need you to be a part of our directory! Please see Michelle Pentz or Chris LeViere with any questions!



Young at Heart

The Young at Heart will be having a Christmas Party here at the church on Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 11:00am. Our theme is "Christmas Carols". Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway to attend and please bring a monetary donation for lunch.

Resource Center

Just a reminder to our teachers and those working with the children – there is a Resource Center in the church office with construction paper, craft supplies, glue, tape, etc. Please let Jen Parks or Chris LeViere know if items need restocked. There are also a lot of “leftover” Vacation Bible School crafts in the Resource Center that can be used as well.

Updated Address Directory

Please pick up your copy of the Updated Church Address Directory from the table in the narthex and please make the following corrections:

1. Joe & Dawna Market

632 Elm Street

Ellwood City, PA 16117

724-674-4833

724-971-3084

2. Kimberly Wawrzynski

3055 McClelland Ave.

New Castle, PA 16101

724-544-7347

724-658-1813



Church Website

Please check out the updates and information on our church website at

www.ecfcog.org.



New Library Books

Please check out these new books donated to the church library.

“The Christmas Secret”

by Donna VanLiere

“North Carolina Weddings”

by Yvonne Lehman

“Rhode Island Weddings”

by Joyce Livingston

“Experiencing God at Home”
by Tom & Richard Blackaby
“House of Cards” - Hope for Gamblers and Their Families
by Tom Raabe
“Lord, I Want to Be Whole”
by Stormie Omartian
AND “Chicken Soup for the
Soul of America”



Stamp Ministry

Remember to save the stamps from **ALL** of the Christmas cards that you receive this month - The income from the sale of used stamps goes to support preparations, publishing, and distribution of Spanish language curriculum for “Sunday School Projects” in 40 different denominations in 19 different Spanish speaking countries in South America, Central America, and even in the USA. The Stamp Ministry started back in 1972 and has raised over \$800,000 for missions work. There is a box in the narthex labeled “Stamp Ministry” to collect your used stamps. Please see Nora Lee Kerry if you have any questions about this ministry.



Christmas Choir

Anyone interested in singing with a special Christmas Choir on Christmas Sunday, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. Practices will be held on Sunday evenings.



THANKS TO THE CHURCH FAMILY!!!

****Dear Church Family, I want to thank everyone who sent cards as well as birthday wishes. I am humbled and overwhelmed. These meant very much to me. Thank You,*

Jeff Boots

****To Our Church Family, Greg and I wish to thank all of you for the card shower, well wishes, and congratulations for our 25th Anniversary. A special “Thank You” to our Bible Study Group who took us out to dinner,*

their gifts and all they do for us melts our hearts. We love you all! In Christ, Amy & Greg Fittinghoff

****Dear First Church of God, Thank you to all who have kept me in their prayers. It has meant so much to me. I still have more tests to be done. So far everything is pointing to my liver. I'm not sure what is next, just taking it day by day. Thank you again for ALL your prayers. Jean Crawford*

****Thank you to Dona Boots and Jackie Kushner for providing our "Nativity Paint Night". We had a great time and appreciate you both giving of your time to teach and guide us through each work of art!*

****Thank you to those who came out to decorate the church for Christmas. It is always a thrill to watch the trees and wreaths and lights transform the church into such Christmas beauty!*

****Dear Church Family, I want to thank you all for contributing to the Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. I want to thank everyone who filled shoeboxes, brought in individual items for the Pray & Pack Party, and donated money for the shipping. I want to thank all the children who helped fill boxes on Wednesday night and to the adults who also helped me with the "Pray & Pack Party". A BIG thank you to my husband, Bill, for his help and support with this ministry. A special thank you to Pastor Phil for praying over the boxes and for the children receiving these gifts. Our church, with the help of Nalco employees, sent 116 boxes and a check for \$286.00 for the shipping, plus all the individual checks that were put in the shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse. May God bless you ALL as you have shared in Christmas with these families. Let us continue to pray for this ministry and that the children receiving these gifts will receive the best gift of all, "The Gift of Jesus". In Jesus' Love, Mary Challis*