

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 8, 2019 – 8:15 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Gottes Sohn ist kommen” (BWV 600) J.S. Bach
(God’s Son is coming)
“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” J. S. Bach
(Awake, the watchman Calls)

WELCOME Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 149*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
ALL: His praise in the assembly of the godly!
ONE: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
ALL: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
ONE: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
ALL: He adorns the humble with salvation.

*OPENING HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymn #201

*INVOCATION Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, He will not despise. Let us, therefore, confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life. In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight. Yet we still fail to love you as we should and serve you as we ought. Forgive our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow in Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) “Lord Have Mercy upon Us”

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

MUSICAL OFFERING “O Come All Ye Faithful” arr. A. Sherman
St. Stephen Bells

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 9:17-29 Page #945

SERMON “Objection!” (Part 2) Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “In the Bleak Mid-Winter” G. Hoist

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, we give these gifts as those whose allegiance is to build your Kingdom, and not our own. May you use these gifts to advance your reign in the hearts and minds of people in our community and beyond. And may our generosity be evidence that we look to an inheritance where moth and rust do not destroy, an inheritance kept safe by you our King. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “What Child is This” Hymn #213

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE Toccatà on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ A. Carter

(Should you be moved to respond to a special musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

**THE PURPOSE OF ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH,
“THE BEACON ON THE HILL”
IS**

TO KNOW Jesus, the light of the world,

John 8:12 “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

TO GROW together as His followers, and

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

TO SHOW His light to the world.

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome Center: Frank & Barbara Field

Greeters: Jim & Lena Ludwig

Ushers: George Weaver & Bruce Wanner

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 8, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

PIANO PRELUDE – *Let us quiet our hearts as we silently prepare to worship*

GATHERING (Congregation seated)

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Praise Book #24

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 149*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

ALL: His praise in the assembly of the godly!

ONE: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

ALL: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

ONE: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

ALL: He adorns the humble with salvation.

*OPENING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn #201

*INVOCATION

Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, He will not despise. Let us, therefore, confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life. In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight. Yet we still fail to love you as we should and serve you as we ought. Forgive our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow in Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

CHILDREN'S SONG – (Children ages 4-7 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Go tell it on the mountain

Over the hills and everywhere

Go tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger

The humble Christ was born,

And brought us God's salvation

That blessed Christmas morn

MUSICAL OFFERING

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

arr. A. Sherman

St. Stephen Bells

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 9:17-29

Page #945

SERMON

“Objection!” (Part 2)

Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

G. Hoist

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Father in heaven, your lovingkindness to us is greater than we could ever ask or imagine. Please receive these gifts as evidence of your power working within us and through us, that you might receive the glory. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “What Child is This” Hymn #213

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ A. Carter

(Should you be moved to respond to a musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

**THE PURPOSE OF ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH,
“THE BEACON ON THE HILL”
IS**

TO KNOW Jesus, the light of the world,

John 8:12 “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

TO GROW together as His followers, and

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

TO SHOW His light to the world.

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome Center: Frank & Barbara Field

Greeter: Betty Humphreys

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

Life Group Week
Today 8:15 am Early Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Youth Group
Wednesday 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 6:45 pm Choir
Saturday 5:30 pm Young Adult/Family Pot Luck

FUTURE EVENTS...

Wednesday 12/18 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal
7:00 pm Officers Meeting
Thursday 12/19 6:45 pm Choir

NEXT SUNDAY – December 15, 2019
SERMON: “The Same Way for All”
By: Dr. Timothy Witmer
Scripture: Romans 10:1-13

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 1, 2019

Attendance:	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>\$3,860.00</u>
	<u>Late Service</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>\$5,910.00</u>

Amount received for General Fund only \$9,770.00

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
Telephone 717-354-7871 Fax 717-355-2565
Church Office Email: ststephenpca@ststephenpca.comcastbiz.net
Website address: ststephenpca.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/08/19

*WELCOME VISITORS!! We are happy that you are with us. Our purpose is to share Christ through our ministries. Please sign the visitors' card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. **Nursery is offered during our 10:30 worship service for children ages three or younger. KINGDOM KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** is available for children ages 4-7. They will be dismissed during the 10:30 service “Children’s Song”.*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All of our homebound members and also prayers of healing for:

Marijane Schappel	Wanda Bossler	Lucille Weaver	John Martin
Amy Weigelt	Joan Jacobs	Shirley Titus	Werner von der Heide
Lee Curley	Pat Fieger	Laine Eberly	Kurt Weaver

**Names appear on this list when we are given permission to print them.
(New names added to the list appear in dark print)*

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES and LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from our ushers as you enter the sanctuary.

SCENT-FREE SEATING - For those with sensitivity to scents, seating has been designated in the southwestern section of the balcony. Please be respectful of those who have a medical reaction to scents and fragrances.

OVERFLOW PARKING is available behind Beck’s Funeral Home.

FREE BIBLE & CHILDREN’S STORYBOOK BIBLE - We are offering a free copy of the English Standard Version Bible (the one we use in our pews) to anyone who would like one. Also, there is a Children’s Bible for families with children under 12. One per family, please. Please stop at the Welcome Center on your way out and they will provide you with a copy.

LIFE GROUPS WEEK: Just a reminder, *Life Groups* meet this week on the day as normally scheduled for your group.

SHIRLEY TITUS UPDATE: Shirley started a new medication last week. And while it seems to be helping subdue her seizures, it is also sucking the life out of her. We are adjusting the level of her meds to hopefully find that sweet spot where it controls seizures and she still has a quality of life. We are traveling to Baltimore/DC Thursday to Saturday to have Shirley evaluated by the leading researcher of SCN8A, and meet some other families at the SCN8A family and clinician gathering. We are hopeful that this will be a helpful time to make connections for the long-haul with Shirley. Thank you for praying for and serving our family. Faith & Nathan Titus

LOOK AROUND at the beauty the plants you ordered in memory of loved ones are decorating the church, poinsettia tree and hallway. We look forward each year to offer this plant, thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red color symbolizes the blood of Christ and the white his purity. The decorating committee and volunteers Thank You for the 72 plants this year that will hear our prayers, songs and sermons throughout the Christmas season.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The ***Tree of Warmth*** is now in the Breezeway ready for your unwrapped gifts of new gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters and socks. These items will go to CrossNet Ministries. Thank you for caring and sharing. The Outreach Committee

THE HANDBELLS are looking for a fulltime player for the handbell choir starting after the New Year to complete the season through May 2020. Rehearsals are the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month and the bells play on the second Sunday of each month and Easter. If you are interested, please contact Charlene Leaman at 484.678.5460.

CROSSNET CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROGRAM - St. Stephen is sponsoring three (3) New Holland families for Christmas by providing gifts for the children. This is a great opportunity to work together to show Christ's love in a personal way and be a blessing to our neighbors in need during the Christmas season. All the tags have been taken from the trees, but you can still participate by, making a donation to the Samaritan Fund, indicating it's for the Christmas Gift program or volunteer to help parents gift wrap on December 14 (check with Sue for more information on this option). Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Sue Ressler at 703.282.6959 or susanressler@gmail.com

TAKE THEM A MEAL MINISTRY NEEDS YOU: If someone is ill, elderly, has had a new baby or has experienced a death in the family, oftentimes family, friends, co-workers and church members rally around these families to take them meals. The Women's Steering Committee has a coordinator, Barb Field, who uses "TakeThemAMeal.com" to allow meal providers to sign up for a day or days when they will provide meals to the meal recipients. Most meal providers prepare meals in their own kitchens or order local carryout/delivery for the meal recipients. On their website, they share recipes, meal-taking tips and other ways to care for those who are dear to you. If a meal provider enters an email address when they sign up to provide a meal, they will receive an email reminder the day before they are to provide the meal. We have many needs in our church family but few people signed up to help with this vital ministry. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us by signing up in the narthex during the month of December. Contact Barb Field at bswisher24@gmail.com or 848-702-1023 if you are able to help.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MESSIAH SING-A-LONG will be held Friday, December 27 at 7 pm at Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. St. Stephen's own, Clair Leaman will be conducting and Heidi Shannon will be one of the soloists. Anyone is welcome to come and listen. For more details, see the bulletin board or check the web at: messiahsingalong.com.

NEW HOLLAND FOOD BANK: Please remember this ongoing ministry in which we can all participate. Bins for donations are located in the narthex and breezeway. Monetary donations are also welcome via your offering envelope – remember to indicate *Food Bank* on your gift.