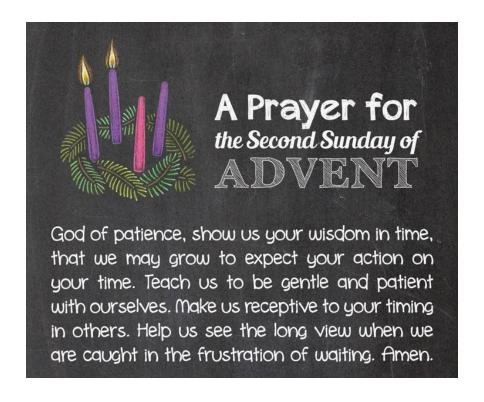
Second Sunday of Advent Word and Table

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041 www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

December 7, 2025

8:00 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary and Livestream

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen...

On that first Christmas morning, the world must have seemed a hard place to Mary. At the end of a weary journey there was "no room at the inn." The only shelter offered to her was the "lowly cattle shed."

I find this a great mystery and a great wonder.

Every day science discovers more and more of the complex wisdom of God. Anyone who uses his mind has a much bigger idea of God than our grandfathers, or even our fathers ever had. Yet God has been here on the planet in person. What we are celebrating ... is not the feast of jolly old Father Christmas or good King Wenceslaus, or a beautiful fairy-tale. We are celebrating the visit of God. How marvelous!

We Praise and Confess The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent - Peace

Matthew 3:2-3 ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " 1

In the darkness there is a way.

There is always a way God will come to us.

We light this candle to find our way.

A Path has been made for us toward God, a path of love and trust.

Show us to the way, O Christ.

Come, O Jesus, and lead us in the way.2

*Hymn of Praise: No. 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry – Winchester New

*Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 3:1–3.

² Steve Garness-Holmes, <u>www.unfoldinglight.net</u> – used by permission.

Confession and Forgiveness

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silent Confession and Reflection

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.³

Declaration of Pardon ---based on Isaiah 54:8, 43:25, 44:22

"In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness

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³ Worship Sourcebook, page 90. Used with Permission

I will have compassion on you," says the Lord your Redeemer.
"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."
"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me, for I have redeemed you."
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.

In Christ, we are made right with God.

Thanks be to God!

Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.

*Song of Praise: No. 350

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning - Spiritual

*Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

We Hear and Respond

From the Prophets

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. ⁴

God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. **Thanks be to God.**

⁴ Revised Common Lectionary (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?

- You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,
- putting everything in subjection under his feet."

 Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he le

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

"I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

¹³ And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Behold, I and the children God has given me."

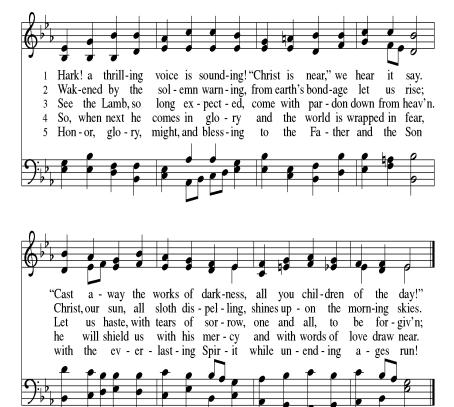
¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation

for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. ⁵

God, we thank you for your Word, the story of your grace.

*Gospel Hymn





Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

⁵ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 2:5–18.

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ⁶

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

⁶ Revised Common Lectionary (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

Three Gifts of Christmas

*Affirmation of Faith

-Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory

to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by scanning the QR code with your camera



*Offertory Response: No. 606

The Doxology

- *Offertory Prayer
- *Invitation to the Lord's Table
- *The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right. . .we join their unending hymn.

Seraphic Hymn

Alonzo P. Howeard 1838-1902



11



Prayer of Consecration and Epiclesis

Our Savior's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Christmas Carol: No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - Mendelssohn

Following the Light of Christ into the World

We go. . . To share the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people!

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude

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DECEMBER 7, 2025

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist
Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME *VISITORS* ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship! Please sign the visitor card located in the pew rack and drop in the offering plate.

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: wearethechurch

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup. They are arranged alphabetically and are located on the upper level near the elevator.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS entitled "Darkness Then Light" are available to the congregation as you journey through the Advent Season. You'll find them on the table at the Main Entrance and in the lower narthex.

COOKIES GALORE--TODAY--The Senior High Youth Group is back in business and once again holding their beloved tradition of providing you with all your Christmas cookie needs! They have the cookies, the containers, and the scale. You bring your sweet tooth and support of our youth. The sale is on TODAY in Fellowship Hall during these times: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held TODAY at 9:15 a.m. in the Music Room. Peter & Susan Hemperly will be directing. The Choir will sing at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. All are welcome!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

GENERAL FUND

In loving memory of Margaret Sabo by Frank Papez

In memory of LaMar Benner. May he rest in peace. by Dolores & Robert Townsley, Sandy & Leon Madeja, Robin & Eddy Mercon, and Carol & Joe Rago and their families

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: On Monday, December 8th, we will gather in the Social Room at 11:00 a.m. for a brief business meeting, then carpool to Glick's Greenhouse in Oley to enjoy their annual poinsettia show. In addition to the lovely 1,500 poinsettias and themed floral displays, they offer live music and entertainment, and complimentary hot dogs and popcorn. There is NO admission fee. Please join us.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY OUTREACH: Open Link appreciates our yearly contributions of Christmas gift wrap such as wrapping paper, gift bags, gift tags, tissue paper, bows, and tape. Please place your items in the container in the Social Room.

THE HEART OF THE ZOO: Born and raised in East Greenville and New Goshenhoppen U.C.C., Charles (Chuck) Bieler wrote his delightful memoir The Heart of the Zoo after his 50+ years of working at the San Diego Zoo and its Wildlife Park. His storied career is an interesting read! Chuck, a veteran, moved with his California Bride and was looking for a job. Starting out with no animal experience, he became the leader of a team that grew the Zoo and Park into world-renowned and highly respected institutions. Building relationships as far away as Europe and China, Chuck's ideas and determination paved the way forward for international cooperation and sharing of animals. (Thank him for the pandas!!) Anyone may borrow The Heart of the Zoo. You can find it atop the Young Adults bookcase in our Library. Please return it when you are finished to the same place for others to enjoy. Any questions- see Terry Dworkin (or Marlene DeLong. Spoiler alert- she's IN the book!!)

CHRISTMAS EVE AT NEW GOSHENHOPPEN: Christmas Eve worship – Wednesday, December 24 – will be at 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. with Candles, Carols, and Communion. The 3:00 p.m. service will include music by the Senior Choir under the direction of Peter Hemperly and accompanied by Susan Hemperly. Pastor's Christmas message is entitled A Predictable Christmas. Each service will have a 10-minute festive organ prelude to set the tone for Christmas Eve worship. Christmas at New Goshenhoppen is always a mysterious and joyful worship experience.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: On Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. the Sunday School youth will be presenting "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in the Sanctuary. Please come out and show your support of our young people as they present the story of our Savior's birth.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Ceremony is Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 noon in front of the Main Entrance to the church. Wreaths will be laid upon the veterans' graves immediately following the service.

TASK FORCE NOMINEES: Nominees for the Task Force can be submitted to the Church Office. Please review the qualifications. If you need a form to review and submit, extras will be available on the center table in the upstairs Narthex and at the Elevator entrance to the Sanctuary. Nominations should be submitted by December 15, 2025.

COOKBOOK UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has contributed recipes to the Anniversary Cookbook. Your efforts are what will make this a successful project. The recipe box is once again placed in the Social Room. Please think of us as you prepare all your favorite holiday dishes. Deadline for contributions will be the end of the year 2025.

SCOUTING NEWS: Cub Scouts is for boys and girls Kindergarten to 5th grade. If interested in joining, please call or text Kyle Moyer at 610-360-0924. **Scouts BSA** is for 11 to 18 year olds. If interested in joining, please call or text Scott Spaar at 484-431-3178.

BULLETINS are presented in loving memory of my dear husband, Clarence, and my beloved parents and all departed loved ones by Marlene DeLong; and in memory of departed loved ones by Tom & Elizabeth Graber.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of the wedding anniversary of Harry & Margaret Peterson by Janet & Chris Weikel; and in memory of loved ones by David & Delores Schuler.

ATTENDANCE: 11/30/25 – 8:00 a.m. 50; 10:30 a.m. 73; Livestream 63; Sunday School 44.

OPERATING INCOME 11/30/25: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$5,109; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$202.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$604,668.26
Less Investment Withdrawals	\$59,424.00
	\$545,244.26
Year to Date Expenses	\$608,359.50
Special Income	\$149,765.00
Capital Campaign Income	\$24,739.87
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$58,675.13
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$92,500.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:00 a.m.	Cookies Galore (Fellowship Hall)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
	11:30 a.m.	Cookies Galore (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	11:00 a.m.	Women's Fellowship (Social Room / Glick's Greenhouse)
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Bible Fellowship Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	3:00 p.m.	Code Blue Shelter Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs.	Γhurs. 10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
	12:00 p.m.	Community of Practice Group (Social Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
Fri.	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Heidelberg Room, Apostles' Room, 4 th Grade Classroom)
Sat.	12:00 p.m.	Wreaths Across America ceremony (Main Entrance)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Thank you to our Service Participants

8:00 a.m. Narthex: Frank Eidle

Roberts' Church Office: Amy Hangey

Elevator: Emy Moyer

Upper Narthex: Donna Fried Liturgist/Acolyte: Melissa Jamison

10:30 a.m. Narthex: Sandy George

Roberts' Church Office: Doug Atno

Elevator: Denise Fox

Upper Narthex: Thomas Bancroft Liturgist/Acolyte: Terry Dworkin

POINSETTIA ORDERS AND MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

How lovely the chancel and apse look when adorned with red poinsettia plants announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior. Orders are now being taken at a cost of \$11.00 per plant. Kindly, only one plant per order form. Also, the money for each poinsettia order needs to accompany the order form. You may give the order forms/money to the Church Office (215-679-2041). The deadline for ordering poinsettia plants is TODAY. (The florist requires our order by December 8, so no add-ons will be accepted.) Anyone making memorial contributions to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin needs to do so by SUNDAY, December 14. Please indicate on your check or on a piece of paper if you wish for your memorial contribution to be printed in the CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETIN; otherwise it will be placed in the Sunday weekly worship bulletin.

In lieu of poinsettia plants, donations may be made toward supporting Open Link and Helping Hands, two local mission projects. Thank you for your support of these outreach endeavors and also for the beautification of New Goshenhoppen Church at this special time of the year.

NOTE: Poinsettia plants may be removed after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service OR picked up on Christmas Day (between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Enter through the Main entrance--nearest the elevators--and pick up poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary).

PLEASE, ONLY ONE PLANT PER ORDER FORM Your Name______Phone Number_____ Plant () Mission Project () Check One: () In Memory of______ By____ () In Honor of______ By____ () Presented by

96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

$350\,$ Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



This African American Spiritual has a oblical basis in the parable of the ten matters (Matthew 25:1–15), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10–17).

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551 OLD HUNDREDTH

LM

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten starazs and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855 MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D with refrain

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



