

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

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 21, 2025

8:00 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary

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

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen. . .

Theologian Dale Bruner writes:

David Peterson, former pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Spokane, Washington, told about a time when he was preparing his sermon. His little daughter came in and said, "Daddy, can we play?"

He answered, "I'm awfully sorry, Sweetheart, but I'm right in the middle of preparing this sermon. In about an hour I can play."

She said, "Okay, when you're finished, Daddy, I am going to give you a great big hug."

He said, "Thank you very much." She went to the door and (these are his words) "Then she did a U-turn and came back and gave me a chiropractic, bone-breaking hug." David said to her, "Darling, you said you were *going* to give me a hug *after* I finished."

She answered, "Daddy, I just wanted you to know what you have to look forward to!"

One meaning of Christmas is that God wants us to know, through this First Coming, how much we have to look forward to in the great Second Coming.

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

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – Love!

Matthew 2:20-21: An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

In the darkness there is a dream.

It is a dream of love and faithfulness.

We light this candle to keep the dream alive.

May we waken, and live out your dream.

In your faithful love to this world,
you appear, with saving grace.

Come, O Jesus, and be born in us.

*Christmas Carol: No. 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly – W Zlobie Lezy

*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.

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

While we ask, Lord,

**for the most meaningful Advent season ever,
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.**

Forgive us Lord,

**for not bending the knee,
for not reading your Word,
for not searching our hearts,
for not facing our sins.**

**Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,
we may have a fresh sense of your presence
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's
glory. Amen.¹**

Declaration of Pardon ---based on Psalm 85:9-13

The good news of this Advent season
is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**Thanks be to the Advent God,
who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

¹ Worship Sourcebook, page 443. Used with Permission

Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.

*Christmas Carol: No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – In Dulci Jubilo

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

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

*The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ St. Matthew 1:18-25

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. ²

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Children’s Christmas Presentation

’Twas’ the Night Before Christmas

Scene 1

Reader #1 : Beatrice Gehman

Ms. Mouse: Violet Reinstein

Reader #2: Ruby Reinstein

Scene 2

Angel #1: Lauren Fitzpatrick

Angel #2: Myla Pennabaker

Gabriel: Olivia Pennabaker

Song - Away in a Manger

Scene 3

Reader #1 : Beatrice Gehman

Innkeeper: Ethan Herr

² *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

Scene 4

Reader #2: Ruby Reinstein

Gabriel: Olivia Pennabaker

Angel #1: Lauren Fitzpatrick

Angel #2: Myla Pennabaker

Little Angel(speaking): Ember Cisarik

Little Angel: Emily Pennabaker

Little Angel: Lydia Gresko

Little Angel: Nora Gresko

Little Angel: Isabella Tate

Song - Angels We Have Heard on High
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Scene 5

Shepherd #1: Chase Fitzpatrick

Shepherd #2: Oliver Reinstein

Shepherd #3: Maverick Gough

Scene 6

Mary: Chelsea Kolb

Joseph: Zachary Peterson

Reader #1 : Beatrice Gehman

Scripture Reader: Beverly Benner

Song - Silent Night

Scene 7

Ms. Mouse: Violet Reinstein

Reader #2: Ruby Reinstein

Reader #1 : Beatrice Gehman

Song - Joy to the World

*Christmas Carol: No. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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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Thank You to all our program participants, and Sunday School students.

A special shout-out to Dale Benner and the Senior High Class for the set design, costume, and prop prep, and to the Sunday School teachers for their flexibility and support.

Oranges will be given to all program attendees. Thank you for worshipping with us!

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, have a Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER 21, 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**

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!

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.

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

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING: Kindly donate your old eyeglasses to the East Penn Hill Lioness Lions Club by depositing them in the large blue box located in the Social Room. The Club will pick up the eyeglasses annually and recycle them through a local optometrist office.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

FIRST MONDAY MEAL

In loving memory of Doris Bieler

by Audrey Zullo

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.

2025 YEARBOOK: The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2025 has been set for Monday, January 12, 2026. Committee chairpersons, First Monday Meals, Library, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

LONGEST NIGHT: A Service of Peace and Centering, Hope and Healing, will take place TODAY at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1244 St. Paul's Church Road, Pennsburg, PA.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Charles Imbody** who passed to eternal life on December 16, 2025. Please keep in your prayers his wife, Joanne, and his extended family.

BULLETINS are presented in memory of parents, George & Mabel Moll by the family.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of parents, Ferne & George C. Ziegler and sister, Marcia Lee Jones by Greta Zoe Flint.

ATTENDANCE: 12/14/25 – 8:00 a.m. cancelled due to inclement weather; 10:30 a.m. 23; Livestream 52; Sunday School cancelled.

OPERATING INCOME 12/14/25: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$8,945; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$605.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$650,599.81
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$59,424.00</u>
	\$591,175.81
Year to Date Expenses	\$647,960.76
Special Income	\$151,785.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$58,675.13
Capital Campaign Income	\$24,739.87
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$98,400.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

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.	Sunday School Christmas Program (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
Mon.	6:30 p.m.	Consistory (Bible Fellowship Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	4:30 p.m.	UPHS Pie Fundraiser Pickup (Fellowship Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Wed.	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
Thurs.		Office Closed - <i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Fri.		Office Closed
	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Heidelberg Room; Apostles' Room; 4 th grade classrooms)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Thank you to our Service Participants

10:30 a.m. Narthex: Denise Fox
 Roberts' Church Office: Terry Dworkin
 Elevator: Cindy Roma
 Upper Narthex: Doug Atno
 Acolyte: Sue Jacobs

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”

TEXT: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed, 1920; rev. 1921
 MUSIC: Polish folk melody; harm. Arthur E. Rusbridge, 1962

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
 (this tune in a lower key, 410)

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO
 6.6.7.7.8.5.5

606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

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

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain ♩ = ♩[♩] ♩

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain