

December
January

Bethany News

2023
2024

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN

Pastor - Breanna Tessitore
Secretary, Michelle Ieradi - Music Director, Debra Schoen



*Bethany Lutheran Church
Palmyra, NJ*

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Monthly Meetings

Church Council &
Finance Committee
Worship Committee
Men's Breakfast
WELCA Circles
WELCA Exec. Board

2nd Tuesday
1st Monday
1st & 3rd Saturday
1st full week
3rd Thursday

Pack 9 BSA
Crew 9 BSA
Troop 9 BSA
Girl Scouts

every Monday & Tuesday
and 3rd Friday Night
every Monday Night
every Tuesday Night
Wednesday Night

Message from Pastor Bre

Grace, peace, and comfort to you from God our parent, Christ our sibling, and the Holy Spirit our friend.

I pray that this holiday season has been kind to you and that you have had opportunities to feel God's presence with you. I also recognize that the holidays are a time when our loneliness or pain can be harder to ignore. Sometimes the only prayer we have left is begging for God to come.

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. (Isaiah 64:1-3 NRSV)

The prophet cried for God to come down, to be among us, to bring justice and peace. We cry out as well. We cry for God to come and restore justice and peace and love among all people. And instead of coming in power and glory, Christ came humbly as a child. Christ tore open the heavens and was born, in poverty and oppression. Christ the Word, who chose to enter into the messiness and pain of human life so none of us would be far from him.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (John 1:14-18 NRSV)

God, full of glory and power and grace and truth, came to us as the most vulnerable among us, an infant, who needs constant care and love. God tore open the heavens and came, not with war chariots and battle cries, but with sleepy cuddles and newborn screams. God loved us enough to allow us to care for and protect this tiny infant. The infant king who would one day show us his love in Jerusalem not in battle and political power but by dying on the cross and showing us that not even death has the last word. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Not loneliness, not poverty, not suffering, not vulnerability, not power or principalities, not death. God has torn open the heavens and come. And this cannot be undone.

May you find peace and joy in the newborn Christ this season. May you be comforted that God is with us, now and forever.

Thanks be to God.
Pastor Bre

Worship Committee

I was walking early one Fall morning along the river, the sun was just coming up, the reflection on the water of the colors were beautiful, light blue, pale pink. Then as I continued on my walk, the sun reflecting on the trees with their yellow, orange and red leaves, what a picture perfect morning. How fortunate we are to live where we live and be able to walk and enjoy Gods beautiful creation. What a way to begin my day.

Mark your calendar, because you do not want to miss all that is happening in **December** and **January**

November 26th First Sunday in Advent. The reading and lighting of the 1st Advent candle, on the Advent wreath will be done by Martha Rimathe and Linda Richardson.

December 3rd Second Sunday in Advent We will be welcoming Dr. Bruce Main from Urban Promise to preach. Stephanie and Joe Staudenmayer will be doing the reading and lighting the 2nd Advent candle. A coffee hour will be hosted by WELCA after the 10:15 worship service.

December 5th-7th Tuesday-Wednesday decorating the Sanctuary and outside of the church will begin at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to come and help.

December 10th 3rd Sunday in Advent. The reading and the lighting of the 3rd Advent candle is TBD. The Christmas tree will be up in the Sanctuary, thanks, Jim Francis.

December 17th Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas pageant. The reading and lighting of the 4th Advent candle will be done by Mitchel and Meghan Dalesio. The Christmas tree will be decorated by Elisa Schoen and Bob Fields. Thank you.

December 24th Family Christmas Service at 10:15 AM with Holy Communion. The individual communion kits will also be available.

December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00PM Holy Communion will be by intinction. The individual communion kits will be available.

December 31st First Sunday in Christmas will be lessons and carols.

The Worship Committee wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas

January 2024 Hard to believe.

January 7th Baptism of Our Lord. We will witness the Baptism of Juliette Kathleen Arcaini, born July 14 2022. Parents are Taylor and Erica (Hannigan) Arcaini. Grandparents: Bud and Ruthane Arcaini, and Jeanne Hannigan. Godparents/Sponsors, Ryan Arcaini and Jacqueline Horgan.

January 10th & 11th Wednesday and Thursday undecorating. All help would be greatly appreciated, all are welcome. Time 9:30 AM

January 14th 2 Epiphany

January 21st 3 Epiphany We will have a pulpit swap. We will welcome Rev. Don Caron Reverend at Christ Episcopal Church, Riverton. He will lead us in worship. Pastor Bre will lead the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church in worship.

January 28th 4 Epiphany

We wish everyone a Healthy Safe and Happy New Year.

Bethany Lutheran Church, it is a joy to serve here with you. I have so enjoyed getting to know many of you since I started in June. It is a blessing to learn your stories. I have been so grateful for those I have met and come to know through worship, committees, visitations, and more. cannot wait to continue to meet more of you as we enter the holidays.

In support of my meeting and getting to know all of you, we have put together a membership review committee. This committee will be going through the directory and membership lists during the next few months. We would like to gain some clarity on everyone's desired relationship with Bethany as well as gather updated contact information. As a reminder, per our constitution, voting members are those who have been received as members and have communed and contributed within the current or previous calendar year. However, if you do not wish to be a voting member but wish to remain connected with Bethany, you can be a friend of Bethany. And regardless of your desired relationship with Bethany, know that you are beloved and cared for by the people here.

I recognize that, especially over the last few years with COVID and pastoral transitions, habits regarding church attendance and participation have likely changed. Our routines and lives were upended and we are still finding our footing post-Pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to reconnect with us if you haven't in a while. I would love to meet you and get to know you.

Please feel free to contact myself and the church office with any updated contact information. In addition, we are inviting all of our members to continue with us and be a part of the bright future of Bethany. We are rebuilding and reestablishing our membership post-COVID and we would like each of you to be part of it.

As we enter the Spring, please be aware that you may receive communication from the membership committee and myself as we begin this work in earnest.

Rev. Breanna Tessitore



Happy Holidays to all;

As we turn the page on fall and enter into the festive season of Christmas and the excitement of the new year Council would like to wish each of you the happiest and healthiest December and January. As we decorate our church it will be a reminder of the season and the beauty it brings. As I make up my list of things I would like for Christmas I can't help but putting #1 on my list a Super Bowl win by the **EAGLES!**

All kidding aside, the prayers that you have been sending to my wife and I are much appreciated and welcomed. We are in the big battle and will continue to do so with your support.

Any ideas that you may have please send Councils way so they can be considered.
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Be safe!
Rick Dreby
President

	<p>We recently had 252 families receiving help.</p> <p>As food prices have risen recently, ongoing donations are especially needed.</p> <p>Drop off in the Narthax or Call Or Text Judy at 609-670-4916 for pickup at your home</p>
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Stewardship Letter – December 2023

Advent/Christmas Season Is Here !!!



Here is an update on our October 2023 Financials:

<u>Balance 9/1/23</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance 9/30/23.</u>
\$38,152.09	+\$9,547.00	(-\$15,337.19)	\$32,361.90

As you can see above, our balance in our Parish decreased by **(-\$5,790.19)** over the month of October. Thank you all for your generous contributions each month. Expenses are trending higher than our receipts this past month.

We have finally made it to the Season of Advent when we begin to prepare the way for our Savior's Birth on Christmas Day! This year we are very excited to have our new full-time Pastor Breanna to share the story of Christ's birth for the first time here at Bethany Lutheran Church. I cannot wait to hear her sermons through this Holiday Season, and the Children's Lessons (bring your children to Church).

We are also going to have a Christmas Pageant this year as Debbie has been working hard to put a show together for our congregation. This year my own granddaughter Gabrielle Gray will be playing the part of Mary (mother of Jesus). This has been a dream that I had hoped would happen someday, and my prayers have been answered. Thank you, God for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, and redeem us giving us eternal life by believing in him. We will be singing glorious praises and hymns during our twelve weeks of Advent. Please join us as often as you can, we would love to see you every week!!! Amen !!!

Thank you all for your gracious and generous giving as always!

May God Bless you all and keep you safe, healthy, and happy! Remember God loves you and wants you to love him too! So, let us spread the love as Jesus has taught us as we go through our daily lives. Amen!

"For God so loveth a Cheerful Giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thanks be to God!!

Tom Willard - Chairperson

What's Happening...

December

12/01

12/02

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12/31

8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

Communion: 2nd Sunday of Advent - Dr. Bruce Main/Coffee Hour

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Worship Meeting)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Troop Comm. Meet)

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Lois Gerken's House (Martha Circle)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/2nd Floor (Scouts)

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Miller House (Eve Circle)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Pack Comm. Meet)

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)

9:30 AM: Christmas Decorating

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

Communion: 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Council Meeting)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/2nd Floor (Scouts)

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

Communion: 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Pageant

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)

7:00 PM: Gibson Hall/2nd Floor (Scouts)

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)

10:30 AM: Miller House (WELCA Exec Board. Meeting)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

10:15 AM: Family Service Communion

7:00 PM: Candlelight Service - Communion

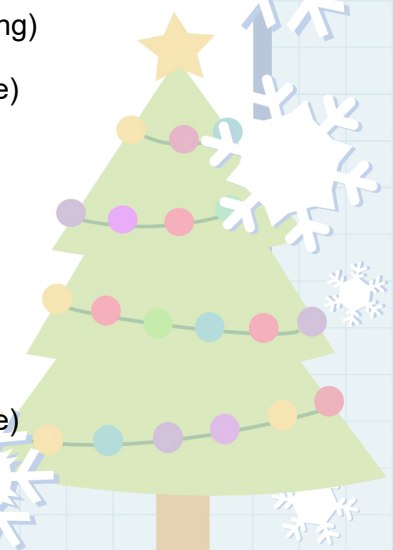
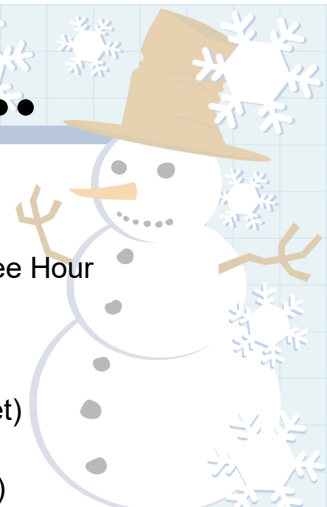
"Merry Christmas To All!" (OFFICE CLOSED)

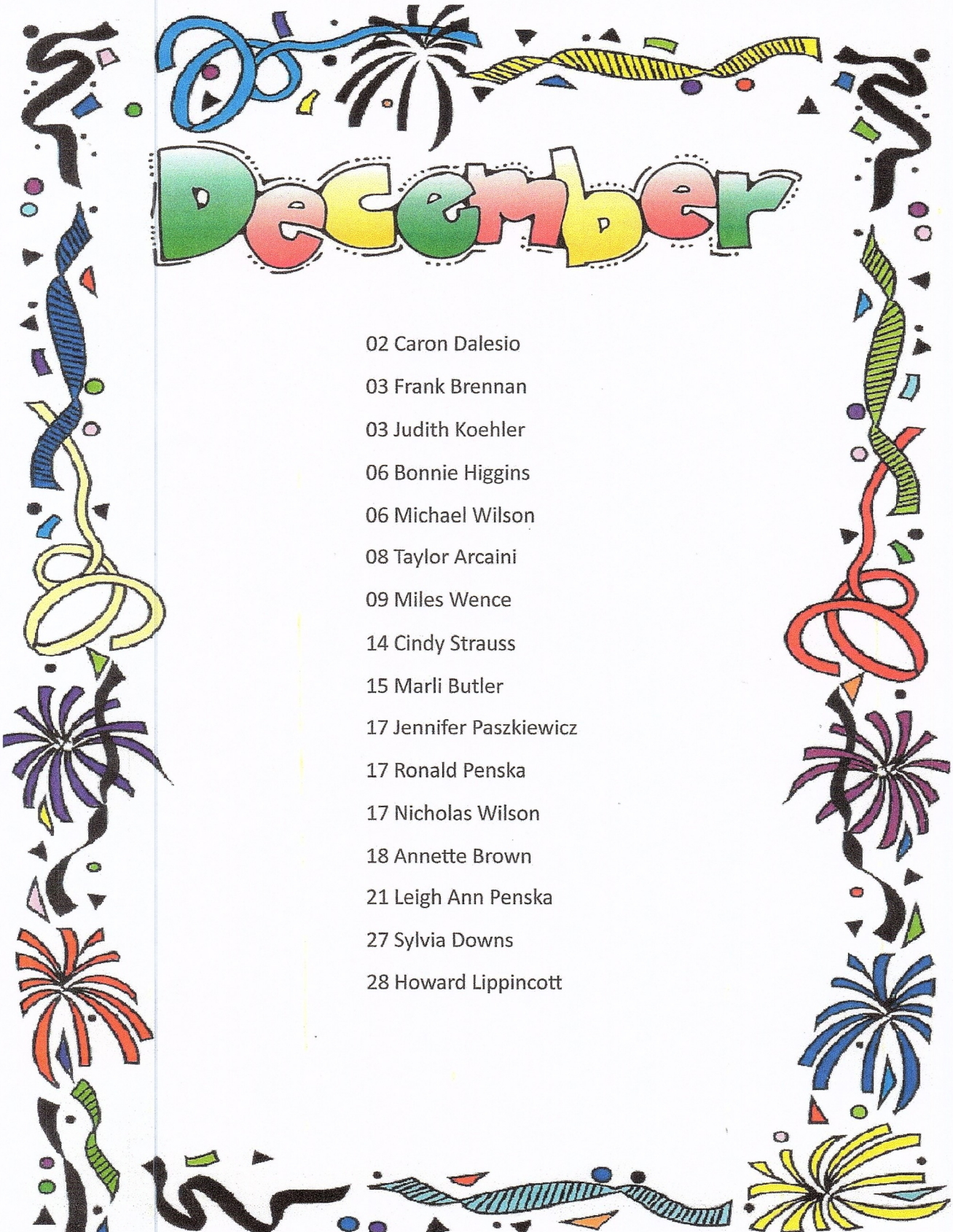
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)

7:00 PM: Gibson Hall/2nd Floor (Scouts)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)

10:15 AM: Lessons and Carols





December

- 02 Caron Dalesio
- 03 Frank Brennan
- 03 Judith Koehler
- 06 Bonnie Higgins
- 06 Michael Wilson
- 08 Taylor Arcaini
- 09 Miles Wence
- 14 Cindy Strauss
- 15 Marli Butler
- 17 Jennifer Paszkiewicz
- 17 Ronald Penska
- 17 Nicholas Wilson
- 18 Annette Brown
- 21 Leigh Ann Penska
- 27 Sylvia Downs
- 28 Howard Lippincott

What's Happening...

January

- 01/01** **New Years Day (Office Closed)**
- 01/02** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/03** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Pack Comm. Meet)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 01/04**
- 01/05**
- 01/06** **Epiphany/Little Christmas**
8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 01/07** Communion
- 01/08** 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Church 2nd Floor (Troop Comm. Meet)
- 01/09** 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Miller House (Martha Circle)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM: Miller House (Council Meeting)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/10** 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Miller House (Eve Circle)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 01/11** 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
- 01/12** 9:30 AM: Christmas Un-decorating
- 01/13** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 01/14** Communion
- 01/15** **Martin Luther King Day**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/16** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/17** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 01/18** 10:30 AM: Miller House (WELCA Exec Board. Meeting)
- 01/19** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/20** 8:00 AM: Cinnaminson Diner (Men's Breakfast)
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 01/21** Communion
- 01/22** Bethany News Articles are due
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/23** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/24** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)
- 01/25**
- 01/26**
- 01/27** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Piano/Organ Practice)
- 01/28** Communion
- 01/29** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Miller House (Quilters)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/30** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Sanctuary (Choir Practice)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Gibson Hall/Undercroft (Scouts)
- 01/31** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Miller House (Bible Study)



Happy
New Year



JANUARY

- 01 Charles Bohus
- 03 Patrick Kane
- 07 Elise Bohus
- 09 Lucas Cooney
- 10 Robert Hayes, III
- 10 Betty Mills
- 11 Joseph Staudenmayer
- 12 Joyce Forrest
- 12 Anna Paszkiewicz
- 17 Robert Deats
- 18 Mitchell Dalesio
- 18 Alexandra Mankowski
- 19 Charles Dorworth
- 20 Debra Schoen
- 24 Jeanie Francis
- 27 Steven Groeber
- 31 Joan Kelly



12/10 • 4PM

Christmas
CONCERT

HANDBELLS
VOCALS

**EPWORTH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

501 MORGAN AVE
PALMYRA
856-829-1908
PALMYRANJUMC.ORG

