



Oakmont Presbyterian Church



First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2019 at 11:00 am

Welcome to Oakmont Presbyterian Church!

We are pleased to have you join us for worship today.

So that you may feel at home with us, please note the following:

Visitor Parking spaces may be found in the Dogwood Way parking lot and across the street in the Oak Ridge Condo parking lot.

Staffed nursery is available during worship for infants to 3-year old; ask Ushers for directions

Receivers for the hearing-impaired, Large Print Bulletins and **Children's Worship bags** are available from the ushers

To preserve the atmosphere of worship, **please turn off** all cell phones and other electronics.

Please share your address with us, on the Friendship Pad, so we can send you information about OPC.

Hymnals and Bibles are located in the racks on the pews in front of you.

An asterisk (*) in the worship liturgy indicates that all may stand, if able.

Gluten-free communion bread is available at the 11:00 am worship service when the Lord's Supper is celebrated

Service Dogs are used by several of our members. Please do not pet them when harnessed. Thank you.

GATHERING IN FAITH

Preparation for Worship

The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

The Worship Sourcebook

Gathering Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Congregation Singing

Hymnal, No. 551

Although this hymn is more traditionally associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, (stanza one) the real concern of the text, in the following stanzas, recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty when Christ will come again to reign in glory.

Welcome

Don Ewing

Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements. Prayer requests may be written on the yellow cards in the pews and given to an usher.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Elizabeth Nicodemus & Don Ewing

Leader: The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All are loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light this first candle,

People: we pray for holy hope of God.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

People: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

*Congregational Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymnal, No. 1

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.**

*Prayer of the Day

Steve Wilson

Call to Confession

Steve Wilson

Leader: A voice is crying out in the wilderness: repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have not kept watch for You. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find Your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

.....moment of silent confession

O God, forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know Your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for Your coming. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

People: Thanks be to God.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Amos

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible, OT, page 631

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Time with Children

Elizabeth Nicodemus

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible, NT, page 27

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

ADVENT GIFTS

Steve Wilson

Living with One Eye Toward the Future

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal, No. 9

Prayers of the People

Don Ewing

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

A Choral Offering
Advent Promise (Christ Will Come Again)

Don Ewing
Chancel Choir
Paul Laubengayer

*View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.
Trust despite the deep'ning darkness, Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving through Your watching and believing
in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.*

*Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.*

*Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.
Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.
Pattern all your calculating and the world You are creating
to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.*

- Thomas Troeger from *Borrowed Light*

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Steve Wilson

Responsive Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Don Ewing

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise...Therefore we praise You,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who
forever sing to the glory of Your name:*

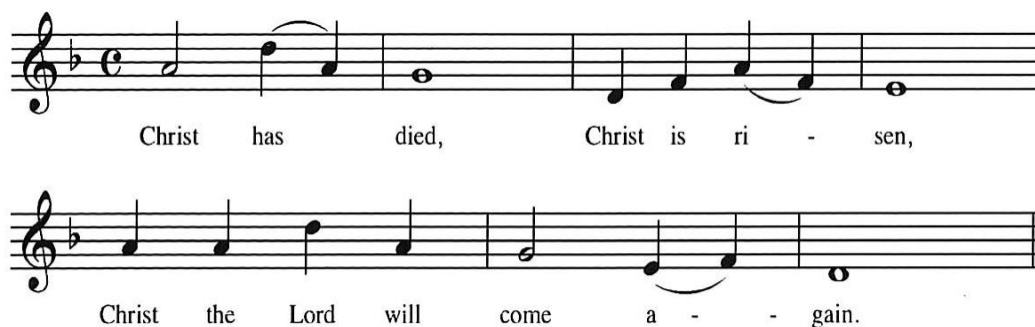
Sanctus

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of
pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who
comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

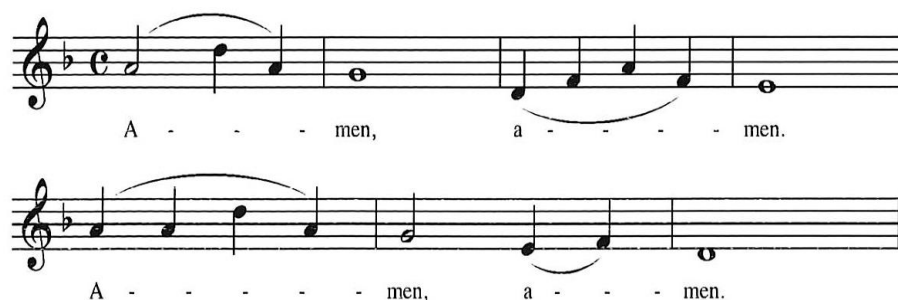
Leader: *You are holy, O God of majesty...Great is the mystery of faith*
 Memorial Acclamation

PICARDY



Leader: *Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine...
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours,
 almighty God, now and forever.*

Great Amen



*And now, with confidence as God's children, we pray together: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

Please hold elements until all have been served.

Music at Communion

Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steve Wilson

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Hymnal, No.6

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Wilson

Postlude

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Organ
 tune: *HELMSLEY*/arr. Aaron Shows

WORSHIP

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of the church year. The word “advent” means “coming”. In Advent we look back to remember the events that led to Jesus’ first coming into the world. Secondly, we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again to complete God’s work in the world. We participate in this season by opening our minds and hearts so that Christ may come to us, whether for the first time or more deeply. The color of this season is royal blue which signifies the coming of the Christ Child. The joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth follows Advent.

The lighting of the Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The traditional Advent wreath has four royal blue candles (lit on the four Sundays of Advent) grouped around a white Christ Candle (lit on Christmas Eve/Day). The main symbolism portrayed, as an additional candle is lit each worship day, is the growing intensity of Christ’s Light entering the dark world and the anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s second coming.

The Christmas Joy Offering The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition for nearly 90 years. This year OPC has chosen it as our main Advent collection. The Offering provides financial aid to church workers, particularly those who are retired, and to their families. The other main area where aid is given is to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, particularly to support the education of minority students and development of their leadership skills. Christmas Joy envelopes are in the pews for your donations during Advent. Thank you for your generosity. *Cliff Schoff, Chair of the Mission Team*

Flowers are given by Nancy Sloan in memory of her aunt Margaret F. Sloan who died 10/13/2019.

The musical setting used in the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving is based on the hymn tune *PICARDY* arranged by Kimberly Bracken Long.

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Time with the Children is offered during 11:00 am worship for children in pre-school through 5th grade. Afterwards, ***ALL children*** up to and including 7th graders are dismissed to go to the Children’s Choir Room (Lower Level) to ***rehearse for the Mini-Musical*** that will be part of the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family Worship Service. They will meet TODAY, Dec. 8, 15 and 22. Parents or Guardians may meet their children downstairs, at the conclusion of worship.

TODAY - Hope for the Holidays - There’s always hope, but there are times in our lives that we have to dig deep to remember that hope, let alone feel it. It’s been a difficult year, a death in the family, drug use, terminal illness, a wayward child, remembering about days in the past that were so happy. Today at 4pm is a quiet service of hope and comfort, reminding us that even with all the things in our life that are not as we’d want, that the hope and love of the Lord will sustain us and carry us through. This candlelight service is held **TODAY in the Fellowship Hall at 4pm**. Come and bring a friend.

Worship next Sunday, December 8 at 8:30 am and 11:00 am, *Second Sunday in Advent*. Steve Wilson will be preaching on *The Gift of a New Beginning* based on Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44. Sharing in the Ministry of Music at 11:00am will be the Chancel Choir.

Dec. Greeters:

Dec1:	Bill Kern, Kevin Rock, Mary Ann Rupert
Dec 8:	Bay Flanery, Ellen Jubeck, Marjorie King
Dec 15:	Nancy Farren, Jack Kells, Jane Park
Dec 22:	Marilyn Alexander, Nancy and Jeff Kline
Dec 29:	Shannon Bursick, Jim Haleen, Jackie Powell

OPC CARES

Your OPC Family Cares About You! Because there are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don’t know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member (mstecik@oakmontpresby.org) so we may support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Please take a moment to check the 5th Street vestibule podium for “get well” or “encouragement” cards to be signed showing those in need that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412-242-1028.

Serving Our Country: David Greenwood, Col. Chris Mahaffey, Becca McAfee, Nathan Rock, Michael Sandford, Scott Smith and Lt. Col. Brian Trumble.

In Our Prayers: Bugs, Marcia & Lynne Bagamery, Carol Broz, Joan Coates, Peter Cooke, Kay Day, Butch Dow, Bert Erickson, Lynn Flanders, Paul Gigler, Amy and Tom Haas, Jane Hackett, Martha Hamer, George Hawker, Chuck and Jean Hazlett, Jane Kinter, Beth Knapp, Ludwig Family, Evelyn McKenzie, Julie McKenzie, Louise Osselborn, Nancy Purdy, Joan Remai, Joan Sanford, Jane Smith, Millie Stratigos, Elva Taylor, Dave and Jean Wills, Peggy Wolfe and Pat Zanella

Recovery Groups Meetings: Alcoholics Anonymous (Mondays at Noon and Saturdays at 8:30 pm in the Dining Room) and Narcotics Anonymous (Thursdays 8:00 pm in the Dining Room).

Praying for mission efforts. Our mission giving for this year includes, the Ludwigs, Peru, medical mission, the Blessing Board, Verona Summer Lunch Camp, youth and adult mission trips, the Somali Bantu leadership, Living in Liberty, Sanctuary Faith Community, Presbyterian Senior Care, The Presbyterian Disaster Assistant, Camp Crestfield and medical benevolence fund.

We express our condolences to Adele Selinger and family at the death of Adele’s father, Harry Corrin, on November 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women’s Gentle Yoga - Monday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, Friendship Hall. There will be no Women’s Yoga next week; the next class will be Dec. 9 and Dec.16. No Gentle Yoga in January and February.

OPC Film Series Screenings - Join us for the OPC Film Series Screening and discussion at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room (lower level). Everyone is welcome. Admission is FREE, and we supply popcorn!

Dec 6 – *Instant Family*

Dec. 20 – *A Dog’s Way Home*

Movies may be borrowed for 2 weeks, please contact Jody Dickinson (412-828-3644).

Coffee and Conversation Speaker Series on Sundays at 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room.

Dec 8 - Advent 2 - Audrey Clifton - *The Poetry and Prose of Christmas* Where the Secular Seeks the Sacred. What is the Spirit of Christmas? Samplings from the familiar and not-so-familiar literature.

Dec 15 - Advent 3 - Bev Taylor and Nancy Sloan - *The Origin and Meaning of Christmas Traditions* Christmas traditions in our families were faithfully repeated year after year, creating lasting memories that are recalled often in family gatherings. As our families grew, new customs were added from friends and extended family and changing times, often without any knowledge of the origin of those customs. We will choose some of our favorites and explore their meaning and history and will welcome stories from your treasured holidays past!

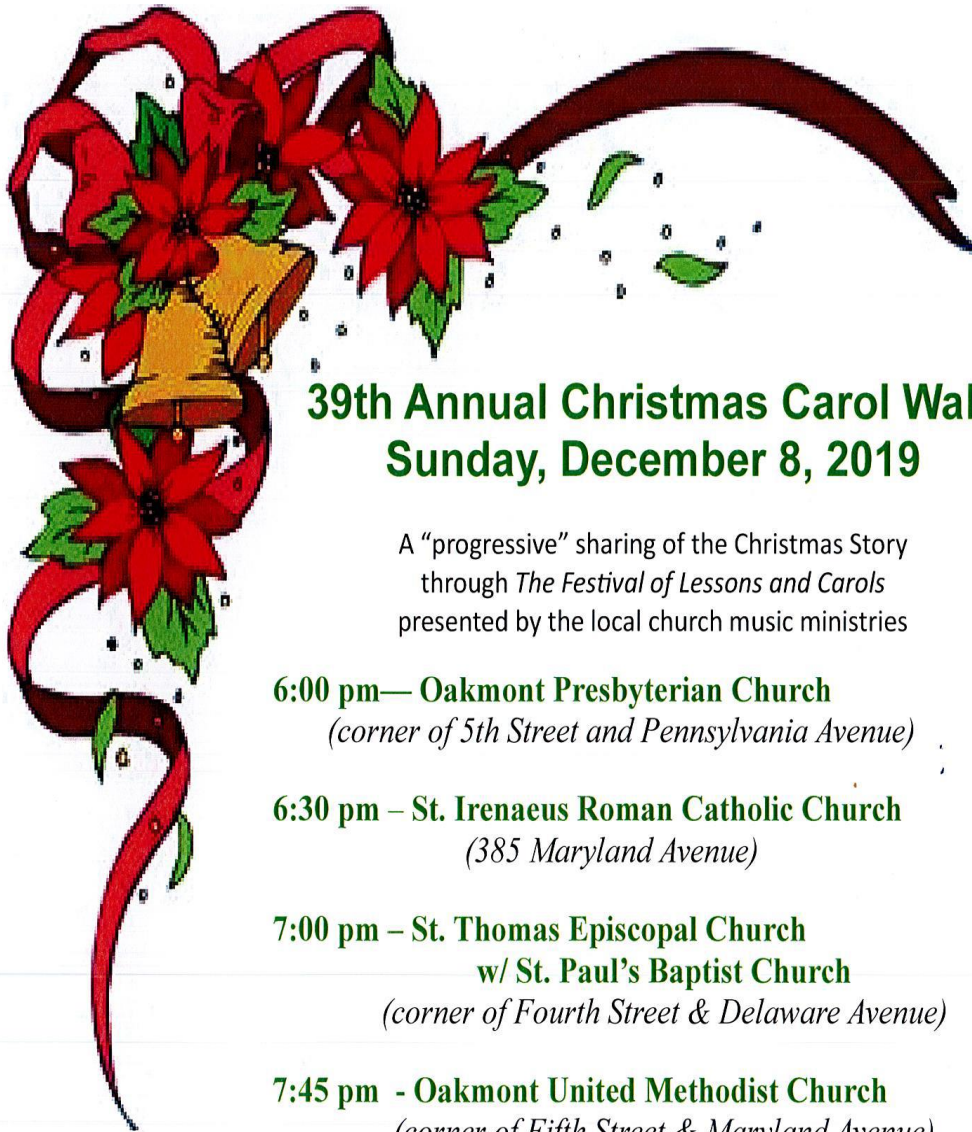
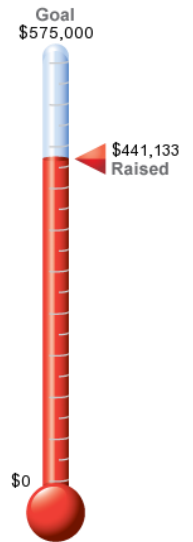
Dec 22 - Advent 4 - Michael Frank and Steve Wilson - *The History of Christmas Carols (and singing)* Discover the stories behind your favorite carols as we share their history and join our voices in a carol sing.

Dec 29 - No Coffee & Conversation Gathering

Time to order Poinsettias! Order forms are available in the vestibules and church office. **Dec 10 is the last day to order them.**

2020 Stewardship Goal: \$575,000; pledged as of Nov 25 - \$441,133. Your generous Stewardship donations are sincerely appreciated, providing for the vibrant, growing, and most importantly faithful Church we all love and cherish. ***Please return your 2020 pledge card ASAP.*** We are excited to launch a new year in January and will appreciate your generous support to do so.

God Bless - Your stewardship Committee, Robin Gourley, Ralph McIntyre and Nick Kokales



39th Annual Christmas Carol Walk Sunday, December 8, 2019

A "progressive" sharing of the Christmas Story
through *The Festival of Lessons and Carols*
presented by the local church music ministries

6:00 pm— Oakmont Presbyterian Church
(corner of 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue)

6:30 pm – St. Irenaeus Roman Catholic Church
(385 Maryland Avenue)

7:00 pm – St. Thomas Episcopal Church
w/ St. Paul's Baptist Church
(corner of Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue)

7:45 pm - Oakmont United Methodist Church
(corner of Fifth Street & Maryland Avenue)

The Carol Walk Finale will feature music by combined choirs
and reception provided by Oakmont United Methodist Church

All are welcome and bring a friend!
Handicap and Wheelchair accessible.

Men's Breakfast, Tuesday, December 3, 8:30 am in the Dining Room. Join us for a hearty breakfast! Our speaker will be Rachelle Poth, *Outstanding Teacher Award* winner and author of several books. She will speak on the subject, *Looking Back to Move Forward: Preparing Our Students for the Future*. She will describe classroom changes she has made that have been successful and those that haven't. Don't forget to invite a friend!

**All Children to age 12 or grade 7 are invited to participate in
*The Little Shepherds***



**a mini-musical to be presented
at the 4:30 worship service on Christmas Eve.**

Rehearsals will be held
during the 11:00 am worship service
following the Time with the Children
on **Dec.1, 8, 15 and 22**

Contact Angie Thompson at althomp321@gmail.com

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing	Parish Associate
The Rev. Laura Bentley	Director of Missions
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Jane Kinter	Director of Education for Children, Youth and Families
Elizabeth Nicodemus	Transitional Youth Worker
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Dale Remai	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Tom Lewis	Sound Coordinator
Tracy Messenger and Carol Huber	Nursery Attendants

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139
412-828-5770 (Office)
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

8:30 am
9:15 am
9:30 am
11:00 am
4:00 pm

DECEMBER 1 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

Trustees Meeting (Library)
Sunday School for All Ages
WORSHIP AND COMMUNION
HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS WORSHIP (Friendship Hall)

MONDAY

12:00 pm
4:00 pm
4:30 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

DECEMBER 2

AA's (Small Group Room)
Cherub Choir (Lower Level)
Children's Choir (Lower Level)
JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Carol Walk Combined Choir Rehearsal (at Oakmont Methodist Church)

TUESDAY

8:30 am
4:30 pm
7:00 pm

DECEMBER 3

Men's Breakfast (Dining Room)
Deacons Gift Wrapping (Dining Room)
Session (Dining Room)

WEDNESDAY

12:00 pm
1:00 pm

DECEMBER 4

Noon Bible Study (Small Group Room)
Circle Christmas Luncheon (Dining Room)

THURSDAY

7:00 pm
7:30 pm
8:00 pm

DECEMBER 5

Boy Scout Troop #854 (Multi-Purpose Room)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary/Choir Room)
NA's (Dining Room)

FRIDAY

7:00 pm

DECEMBER 6

OPC Film Series: *Instant Family* (Multi-Purpose Room)

SATURDAY

8:30 pm

DECEMBER 7

AA's (Dining Room)

SUNDAY

8:30 am
9:30 am
11:00 am
6:00 pm

DECEMBER 8 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP

Sunday School for All Ages

WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS CAROL WALK – begins at OPC



THE EVENT

Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Holiday Celebration Luncheon

A Casual Soup, Salad and Christmas Cookie Buffet

Sunday December 15, 2019 12:00-2:00

OPC Dining Room

Reservations required

THE MENU

Choice of two Homemade Oakmont Deli Soups: **Tomato** or **Broccoli Cheddar**

Salad with assorted dressings

Rolls, Crackers with Butter

Hot and Cold Beverages

Homemade Christmas Cookies

IMPORTANT DETAILS

We hope you will join us for a lunch of Hot Soup, Familiar Christmas Carols, and Warm Fellowship with friends and family. We encourage you to bring a Guest.

We invite all who are able to bake 2-3 dozen of their favorite Christmas Cookies to share. Please bring the Cookies ready to serve on a disposable plate or in a container or tin with your name clearly marked on the bottom. Cookies can be consumed or taken home; take-away boxes will be provided.



Reservations are required:

Name _____ How many for lunch? _____

Are you bringing homemade cookies? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please tear off at the candy cane and place in the collection plate.

You may also call the church office at 412-828-5770 to make your reservation.