

FREE

Mountain Peaks



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NEWSPAPER, LLC

December 10-22, 2020

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www.mt-peaks.com

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas



Sherry Schatzel and Ryan Nork look over trees at Helen and Ed's Tree Farm. Ryan has been coming to Helen and Ed's for 24 years.



The White Haven Police and Fire Departments escorted Santa and the Grinch through the neighborhoods of White Haven, Dennison Township and Penn Lake on Sunday, November 29. The parade did not stop but candy was thrown from the fire trucks for children who came to see Santa and the Grinch.



Twins Caitlyn and Kamryn Stelma, 8 found the perfect Christmas wreath at George Burger and Sons Garden Center.



At right: Santa and Mrs. Claus are ready to receive visitors at the Christmas Wonderland held by the Dorrance Township Volunteer Fire Department on December 5



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

At American Legion Post 781, Patti Lambiase and Keelin Finn organize donated items before packing boxes for troops overseas on December 4.

Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

2021 LOTTERY CALENDARS AVAILABLE

In an effort to minimize the impact of Covid-19 Saint Mary's parish is introducing a new fundraiser. 2021 lottery calendars are printed with a three digit number that corresponds with the PA evening Daily Number (7 p.m.). They make a great Christmas gift for the person on your list who is hard to buy for! You can purchase a 2021 Lottery Calendar for a very reasonable price of \$30 (\$365 if purchased at retail). Winners may receive \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100, or \$200 depending on the day. Calendars are available after Mass, from the parish office, or via email/phone orders: stmarys-dorrance@gmail.com 570-868-5855.

CANCELLED MOUNTAIN TOP SOCIAL CLUB

All regular meetings of the Mountain Top Social Club are cancelled until further notice. For information about the club call Rich Powell at 570-751-6249.

EVERY SUNDAY SPIRITUAL YOGA

Join Stairville United Methodist Church, 1790 Stairville Road in Mountain Top for spiritual yoga on **Sundays** at 5:30 p.m.

Spiritual yoga deepens the connection to God through a spiritual and physical practice.

Weather permitting, they will be meeting outdoors but there is room to move inside if needed.

You are required to wear a mask to and from class and bring your own yoga mat. You will be spaced 6 feet apart and during the yoga practice you may remove your mask.

A donation basket will be available and donations are given to the church.

The class lasts 1 hour, all levels are welcome.

mail to soldiers serving overseas. Donations of canned fruit with zip-top lids, Campbell's Soup at Hand, crackers, chips, peanuts, candy, cookies or any

nonperishable snack foods are needed, as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos, body wash and any hygiene products. Monetary

donations are also needed for postage.

Please bring your donations

See Places To Go, page 5



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UNTIL DECEMBER 15 COLLECTION FOR TROOPS

The American Legion, Mountain Post 781 in Mountain Top is collecting items to



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HILL'S ANGELS

Tree Trimming Contest

.....OUTDOOR DRIVE-THRU EVENT.....

Sunday, December 13 • 2:00-4:00pm

Drive-thru our parking lot to view the beautifully decorated trees by businesses, families and organizations.

Then cast your vote for your favorite!

Everyone will receive cookies, candy canes and hot cocoa "TO-GO". The first 50 attendees will also receive a FREE GIFT compliments of Heritage Hill.

Drive-thru attendees will be entered into a raffle for a chance to WIN A 40 INCH SMART LED ROKU TV!



Cash donations will be accepted for the Alzheimer's Association.



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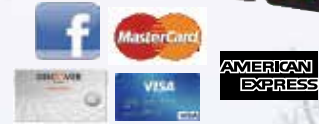
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Fairview secretary/treasurer Wasiakowski to retire



From left are, Abby Wasiakowski, assistant secretary/treasurer; supervisor Fred Rose,

Fairview Township supervisors recognized township secretary/treasurer Barbara Wasiakowski at their December 1 meeting. Wasiakowski is retiring at the end of the year after serving 12 years as secretary/treasurer. She is credited with modernizing and computer-

Barbara Wasiakowski, supervisor Mike Iorio, supervisor Barry Jacob.

izing township bookkeeping records. She also was instrumental in preparation of many state and federal grant applications submitted by the township. Board chairman Mike Iorio thanked Wasiakowski for her service. "You will be sorely missed," he commented.



Taking a break from it all Kerdrick Kowalski enjoys some time in the leaves.



It's raining leaves on pre-school 3 day student Harlow Kruk.

Saint Jude pre-school enjoys autumn leaves

In a time when there are so many worries, it's always good to take some time to get outside and just enjoy the beauty of an NEPA autumn day. That's just what Saint Jude School's preschool class did recently as they took a break from academics and played in the falling leaves. Students ran, jumped, and "swam" in the fall foliage at Saint Jude School to celebrate all things autumn. During this time of year when we pause to give thanks, these little ones showed us how we have so much to be thankful for, even if it is as simple as a pile of leaves in the yard.

LOTTERY CALENDARS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

2021 Lottery Calendars Available! Saint Mary's Dorrance

In an effort to minimize the impact of COVID-19 Saint Mary's parish is introducing a new fundraiser. 2021 Lottery Calendars are printed with a three digit number that corresponds with the PA - Evening Daily Number (7 PM). They make a great Christmas gift for the person on your list who is hard to buy for! You can purchase a 2021 Lottery Calendar for a very reasonable price of \$30 (\$365 if purchased at retail). Winners may receive \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100, or \$200 depending on the day.

Calendars are available after Mass, from the parish office, or via email/phone orders: Email: stmarysdorrance@gmail.com or call 570-868-5855. Calendars also available at Chiverella's Auto, 479 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top.



Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 2

and place them in the box marked Troop Donations in the entrance way at the American Legion, Mountain Post 781, 1550 Henry Drive, Mountain Top, until December 15.

If you know anyone stationed overseas, please email martine.columbo@aol.com. With any questions, please call 570-678-7105. Checks can be made out to Mountain Post 781 and make a note that it's for package donations.

DECEMBER 11 & 12

DRIVE THRU NATIVITY

Mountaintop Family Church will be holding a drive-by

live nativity scene on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 from 5:30-8 p.m. They hope everyone in the community will add this to their list of Christmas light sight-seeing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Children in 6th grade and younger will receive a Christmas goodie bag and there will also be something special for teens and adults.

DECEMBER 12

HOLIDAY ROLL SALE

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Mary's Church, Dorrance is conducting a holiday roll sale. The rolls are \$7 each and are available in apricot, nut, poppy seed, prune, blueberry,

blueberry cream, raspberry, and raspberry cream. The rolls are made by a Mountain Top bakery. Prepaid orders may be placed in the collection or by calling Susan at 570-868-6983. Final orders are due by December 12. Rolls may be picked up on Monday, December 21 after noon at the meeting room behind the rectory.

DECEMBER 13

SANTA PARADE

Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1 will drive Santa through Fairview Township starting at 2 p.m. on December 13. The parade will start at the fire station, and sirens and horns will announce his approach. If needed, the rain date will be December 20, and an announcement will be placed on the department's Facebook page and at mthc1.com.

MEAT SHOOT

The Nuangola Rod and Gun

Club is holding its meat shoot on December 13 at noon. Masks are required. Participants are welcome at 57 Gun Club Lane, Mountain Top. Each round is \$5. Any questions call Darryl at 570-899-9784.

DECEMBER 19 & 26

HOLIDAY

SAUERKRAUT SALE

Emmanuel Church of Christ is holding a holiday homemade sauerkraut sale on Saturday, December 19 and Saturday, December 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. Homemade sauerkraut will be available to purchase for your holiday meals. The sauerkraut will be sold by the quart for \$5, no limits.

Emmanuel UCC is located in Dorrance Township at the end of Alberdeen Road. Please call the church office at 570-868-5675 with any questions.

DECEMBER 20

SANTA PARADE

Slocum Township Fire Co. is happy to announce its Santa parade that will take place on December 20 starting at 2 p.m.

They will be on their usual carnival parade route. (Down Slocum Road from the fire house, across Schmidt's Road, up Lily Lake Road towards Blue Ridge Trail, turning right onto Blue Ridge Trail to Slocum Corners and finally turning right onto Slocum Road back to the fire hall.)

Be sure to visit Santa at the fire station directly after the parade, in a drive thru fashion, and get a treat!

SENIOR CITIZENS

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Crestwood School District invites senior citizens (age 60+) from the Greater Mountain Top Area to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and some holiday cheer in a safe and new way — drive thru style. Stay in your vehicle and wear a mask. The breakfast will be on Sunday, December 20 from 8-11 a.m. at the main entrance of Crestwood Secondary Campus in Mountain Top.

The menu served in a take out container hot and ready to eat includes sausage, egg and cheese sandwich on a flaky croissant with crispy bacon, a hash brown and fresh fruit. Also serving fresh baked donuts, pastries and cookies. Beverage choices include 100% fruit juice, hot coffee, hot tea or hot chocolate.

Senior citizens (age 60+) eat free. Additional orders are welcome. Adults \$6, students \$3 and children 5 and under are free.

Happy Holidays!

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Crestwood Menu

Elementary Schools and Secondary Campus

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are providing free meals during the 2020-21 school year. In order to qualify students must take a complete meal which consists of meat or meat alternative, minimum of 1/2 cup serving of fruit or vegetable, grain/bread. All lunches served with fat free milk.

Week of December 14

• **Monday: On campus:** Chicken fries or pork bbq on a bun, baked beans, corn salad with tomatoes, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go:

Ham and cheese or chicken fries, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Tuesday: On campus:** Pork rib on bun or Italian dunkers, green beans, grape tomatoes, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go: Turkey club or pork rib on bun, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Wednesday: Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go:** Tuna salad on roll or chicken patty, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Thursday: On campus:** Chicken patty or meatball sub, seasoned curly fries, romaine salad, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go:

Italian hoagie or chicken patty, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Friday: On campus:** Chicken fajita wrap or pizza, steamed carrots, broccoli salad, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go: PBj or chicken fajita wrap, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Week of December 21

• **Monday: On campus:** Popcorn chicken or meatball sub, seasoned curly fries, romaine salad, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go: Turkey club or popcorn chicken, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Tuesday: On campus:** Chicken fajita wrap or pizza, steamed carrots, broccoli salad, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go: Italian hoagie or pizza, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Wednesday: Virtual/Cyber Grab & Go:** Bologna and cheese or cheeseburger, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit/100 % fruit juice

• **Thursday: On campus:** No

school, holiday break

• **Friday: On campus:** No school, holiday break

Week of December 21

• **Monday:** No school, holiday break

• **Tuesday: On campus:** No school, holiday break

• **Wednesday: On campus:** No school, holiday break

• **Thursday: On campus:** No school, holiday break

• **Friday: On campus:** No school, holiday break

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Places To Go ...

Continued from page 5

RSVP with Stephanie Otero at 570-474-6888. Leave a message with number of meals requested. RSVP is not required but requested for estimated number of attendees.

Thanks to sponsors: Crestwood Educational Support Personnel Association, Crestwood Education Association and Crestwood Football Booster Club.

DECEMBER 21 CHS YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

The 2019-2020 Crestwood High School yearbook will be distributed on **December 21** 6-8 p.m. for students, grades 10-12 and recent graduates who ordered one last year. Distribution will take place at the high school entrance and it will be a drive-by distribution. There will be no need to get out of your vehicle. Please provide the teachers working there with the student's name and grade (2019-2020 grade year).

If there are any questions, please email amanda.zavacky@csdcomets.org.

Wyoming Seminary Lower School announces first term honor roll

Dr. Kathleen Hanlon, Dean of Wyoming Seminary Lower School, has announced the greater Mountain Top students named to the Academic High Honor Roll and Academic Honor Roll for the first trimester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

High Honor Roll: Grade 6: Anisa Mohyuddin, Laura Olsen, Xavier Claire Woo
Grade 7: Aarav Gupta.

Honor Roll: Grade 6: Simran Sharma
Grade 8: Alexander Ross

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News in Brief ...

Fairview adopts ordinance to withdraw from COG

Fairview Township supervisors voted at their December 1 meeting to adopt an ordinance to withdraw from the Mountain Top Council of Governments (COG) as of January 1, 2022.

Only a handful of residents attended the session and there was no opposition to the ordinance expressed by any members of the public present. Nor

was there any opposition to the township's 2021 budget which calls for a .6 mill property tax increase.

The only comment came from a resident who asked supervisors for an explanation of why the township wants to leave the COG. Board chairman Michael Iorio responded by describing the COG as a drain on the township. "We don't get much out of it," he stated.

The supervisor, as he has in the past, was critical of what he

described as a lack of cooperation from Wright Township in the operation of the compost facility the Crestwood Industrial Park. Iorio pointed out that a few years ago the COG got a grant to erect a building at the compost facility in the Crestwood Industrial Park. He said Fairview Township wound up handling the grant and overseeing construction since Wright Township failed to do so because officials there were "too busy." He went on to point out that Wright Town-

ship was supposed to handle getting water and electrical service to the building, which it has not done. As a result, he said, the building lacks both utilities.

"To add insult to injury, without letting us know, they (Wright Township) decided to store salt in a steel building," he added. At the November 16 COG meeting, members voted to direct Wright Township to remove its salt from the structure by January 1, 2021.

Wright, Fairview, and Dor-

rance Townships are members of the COG, but only Fairview and Wright participate in operation of the compost facility. Iorio predicted the facility would still be open after Fairview leaves the organization. The COG's by-laws require a member organization to provide 12 months notice of its intention to withdraw from membership.

Supervisor Barry Jacob said if the compost facility closes

See News in Brief, page 12



SUPER Santa SPECIALS

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Toohil announces safety grants for schools in 116th District

Two public school districts and two non-public school in the 116th Legislative District recently were awarded Safe Schools Targeted Grants to

improve safety and security measures, according to Rep. Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne).

“Creating a safe and secure learning environment for our

students, faculty and staff is one of my top priorities,” said Toohil. “This program continues to support the necessary enhancements to help ensure

we accomplish that goal in schools locally and across the Commonwealth.”

The following school districts/schools in the 116th Leg-

islative District received funding:

- Crestwood School District – \$25,000 equipment grant.
- Holy Family Academy – \$24,885 equipment grant.
- Immanuel Christian School – \$17,388.40.
- Northwest Area School District – \$35,600 school police officer grant.

Equipment grants can be used to purchase security-related equipment including identification systems; metal detectors; protective lighting; surveillance equipment; special emergency communications equipment; electronic locksets; deadbolts and theft control devices; and training in the use of the security-related technology.

School police officer (SPO) grants fund programs which address school violence by establishing or enhancing school security, including costs associated with the training and compensation of SPOs.

“Although the learning environment has shifted for students, educators and families, the importance of maintaining safe school communities has not changed,” Acting Education Secretary Noe Ortega said. “The Safe Schools Targeted Grant program provides schools with resources to create, support and enhance programs that address the current needs of school communities, such as creating trauma-informed practices and developing equity and inclusion methods.”

The Safe Schools Targeted Grant Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and funded by the General Assembly in the 2020-21 state budget. More than \$9 million in grant funding was awarded to schools statewide.



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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 8

or is not open to township residents, supervisors will work on some means for residents to dispose of yard waste.

The township's \$1,786,580 general fund budget passed unanimously without public opposition. The property tax increase to support the budget is the first in 11 years, although the township did enact a .3 mill fire tax in 2018 to help with the operation of Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1. The increase brings the general fund property tax to 1.45 mills. Adding the fire tax brings total tax on township properties to 1.75 mills which equals \$175 for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

In other business ...

Supervisors accepted the resignation of Ed Kresge who works at the COG effective December 31. They also acknowledge township secretary/treasurer Barbara Wasia-

kowski who is retiring at the end of the year. "You will be sorely missed," Iorio said to Wasiakowski who has worked for the township for 12 years.

She is expected to be replaced by her daughter, Abby Wasiakowski, who has been working as assistant secretary/treasurer for the last few months. The 2021 budget sets the secretary/treasurer's salary at \$42,812.

Supervisors voted to hire Grevera and Associates to con-

duct the 2020 township audit as a cost of \$3,970.

Rice Township adopts budget

The Rice Township supervisors adopted the township's 2021 budget at their December 1 meeting. The general fund budget shows \$2,304.830 in expenses and holds property taxes at .26 mills.

In other business ...

Township engineer Andrew

Pasonick reported he is working to set up a pre-construction meeting with Fabcor Corp. of Jessup which was awarded a \$427,695 contract for the Ice Pond dam outlet repair project at the supervisors' November 4 meeting. Pasonick said all required documents have been received from the firm and he hopes to work out a construction schedule at that meeting.

Township secretary/treasurer Jeffrey Beck reported the township received the final

bill of \$6,490 for installation of lights at the pickle ball court.

Financially, Beck reported the township's real estate transfer tax revenue was higher than expected for 2020 and earned income tax was good. He said the township's Nov. 30 balance was about \$80,000 higher than was projected in the 2020 budget.

Supervisors approved a \$50 holiday bonus for all full-time

See News in Brief, page 13



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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 12

township employees as a thank you for their dedicated service. They also approved a resolution eliminating deductions from police department members pay for their pension fund.

Board chairman Bob Pipech thanked residents for their

cooperation and participation in the fall leaf collection program. Pipech said three dumpsters were filled with leaves. He estimated that by having residents bring leaves to the public works recycling center, rather than township employees collecting them from residences, the township saved about \$30,000. He noted that

township public works crews were able to focus on patching roads and preparing trucks for inclement weather.

Supervisors approved purchase of a Fire King four-drawer fireproof lateral file cabinet at a cost of \$5,488.49. They also approved purchase of a Microsoft Surface Pro 7 computer with accessories for

Zoom meeting management at a cost of up to \$3,000. The township will seek Covid-19 reimbursement from Luzerne County.

WHACL closes

Effective immediately, the White Haven Area Community Library will be suspending library services until fur-

ther notice. This decision is in response to the increasing numbers of Covid related illnesses.

All materials being enjoyed by patrons can be returned in the outside book drop.

School lunches will continue to be distributed by the Crestwood School District in the library's parking lot.



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Historical Society erects Christmas tree

The Mountain Top Historical Society is helping to brighten the holidays for motorists traveling along Route 309 in Mountain Top.

The society, with the help of several supporters, erected and decorated a 28-foot Christmas tree on its lot just south of Route 437 near Baab Jewelers and Opticians. The tree and lights were donated by Henry Simoncavage and it was transported to the site by Ayers Towing. Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1 assisted with stringing of the lights on the tree. Members of the society made ribbons and decorated the tree.

A Merry Christmas sign was painted by Anita Herron.



From left are society members: Eric Aigeldinger, Anne Wambold, Mary McGinnis, Steve McGinnis, John Kirn, Pam Kirn.

Santa visits Starry Knights



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Santa Claus and one of his helpers are waiting for visitors at the drive through event at Starry Knights.

Starry Knights Learning Center, LLC in Mountain Top hosted a drive by visit with Santa Claus on Saturday, November 28. There was a letter to Santa Claus box drop off for the children to ensure their letters make it to Santa. A table with handmade hats and other items for sale, a food truck and a Jarred Box drop off container were all part of the event.



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Betterly celebrates 100th birthday



Photo July, 2018: From left, Drums Lioness Lions Past Presidents: Judi Yamulla, Lorna Veglia and Betty Betterly.

Betty Betterly, a Drums Lioness Lions Club member, celebrated her 100th birthday November 28, 2020. Betty was the founder of the Drums Lioness Lions Club in which she was instrumental in organizing 40 years ago. Betty is currently a charter member of the club, served as the club's first president, and was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. This prestigious award is the highest form of recognition from Lions Clubs worldwide. Formerly a life long resident of Drums, Betty currently resides at St. Luke's Pavilion, 1000 Stacie Drive, Hazleton, PA. 18201.



Students pose with the Saint Jude Feed a Friend donations. Shown in the back, from left are Reese Tavella, Avery Hudak, Anson Jumper, Valerie Strohl, Melody Josefowicz,

Genevieve Jakubczyk, Lukas Phillips, Steven Rowlands, Tommy Elick, Elizabeth Decowski. In the front row are Melissa Patrick, and Isabelle Remak.

Saint Jude School collects Feed a Friend donations

The Saint Jude School community came together, once again, this year to donate all of the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal, save the turkey. Each class was assigned a specific item and the classes sure did deliver. From mashed

potatoes, to roll mixes and cranberry sauce to gravy the students and staff collected enough to fill a pick up truck with their collection. All food was delivered to Saint Paul's Church, which houses the local food bank.

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American Legion packs Christmas boxes for troops overseas

Members of the American Legion Post 781, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion auxiliary packed Christmas boxes for troops overseas on Friday, December 4 beginning at 4 p.m. at the post home.

It is always a lot of hard work

to collect donations, organize, package, and mail out all the boxes for our troops overseas, but this year more so due to Covid-19. It is rewarding knowing that many of our troops will have something to open for Christmas.

Before the boxes were

packed, members of the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and sixth graders from Rice Elementary School collected items such as beef jerky, tissues, wrapped candy of any kind, cheese & peanut butter crackers, water, chips and pretzels, Tastykakes, writing paper,

gum, small travel games, cards, Tylenol, toiletries, Gold Bond foot powder, pull tab only cans of fruit, sardines, powered sweetened juice drinks, peanuts, packaged cookies, pens/pencils, mints, eye drops, puzzle books, instant coffee, ice tea mix, lemonade mix, wet wipes, any funny DVDs,

chicken or tuna pouches, granola bars, trail mix, popcorn, raisins, prepaid phonecards, bubbles, body wash, tea bags, band aids, deodorant.

Last year 121 packages were sent, and the cost of postage was about \$3,000. This year about the same amount of packages will be sent.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Members of the American Legion along with volunteers are getting set up to pack boxes destined for some troops overseas. From left

are Keelin Finn, Martine Columbo, veteran Chris Michaels, Patti Lambiase and Logan Wyman.



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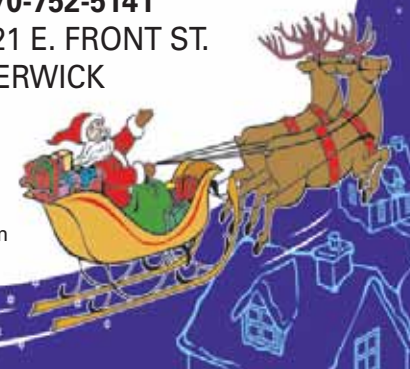
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Crestwood creates Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Crestwood School District has created the Distinguished Alumnus Award and is looking for nominations from the community.

The award was established earlier this year by the Crestwood Board of Education and is intended to honor graduates of Crestwood High School, Fairview High School, or White

Haven High School who have achieved success in their field of endeavor and/or have had a positive influence on students and the community.

A seven-person committee appointed by the school board is responsible for identifying candidates; promoting the award and encouraging the public to submit nominations;

deliberating the qualifications of nominees; and making final recommendations to the school board for final approval.

The inaugural class of Distinguished Alumnus will include three recipients who will be honored at an assembly planned for the fall of 2021. Information on the award, including nomination forms are available on the school district web, www.csdcomets.org. Nominations must be submitted by January 15, 2021.

To be eligible, nominees:

- Must have graduated from Crestwood High School, Fairview High School, or White Haven High School and must have graduated at least 10 years prior to being recognized.

- Must have excelled in his/her career, and/or achieved local, statewide, national, or international recognition.

- Must have high moral standards and serve as a role model for our youth and demonstrate that goals are achieved through persistence, dedication, and knowledge.

Any attendee, regardless of sex, color, race, national origin, or sexual orientation, is eligible for nomination. An eligible candidate who is deceased may be nominated for consideration as a Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Chairman of the nomination committee is Tom Benz, a Mountain Top native and 1986 graduate of Crestwood High School. After studying Computer Science and Mathematics at Dickinson College, Benz went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Scranton in Software Engineering, and a masters in Business Intelligence from Villanova.

He has worked for Verizon for 28 years in various engi-

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Happy Birthday

Mandy West will celebrate her 9th birthday on December 12. Mandy is in the third grade at Fairview Elementary. She loves to ski and go snow tubing. Mandy lives in White Haven with mom Tiffany and sister Daisy.



Ne. Pa. Music Teachers Association presents annual festival and recital programs

The NEPMTA recently held its annual Sutton festival, virtual, and six recital programs with Judy Katra, Mountain Top, as chairperson and Andrea Bogusko, Mountain Top, as co-chairperson for the event.

Social distancing, masks, and groups of 25 or less were required and the recitals took place on October 11 at the Dorranceton United Methodist Church, Kingston.

Pastor Brian Wallace displayed all the recitalists names and performance pieces, on the overhead screens, and each performer received silver or gold medals. Initially an adjudication took place on September 27, virtual. Jackie Legg, Pittston, and David Meehan, Wilkes-Barre served as judges



Pictured seated at the piano is Andrea Bogusko, standing are Pastor Brian Wallace and Judy Katra.

for the event where students performed two memorized pieces. A Superior awarded them a gold medal, and an

excellent, a silver medal and students then qualified to per-

See Music, page 19

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Music ...

Continued from page 18

form at the recitals. Students also took a theory test to qualify to perform.

NEPMTA teachers whose students participated in the events include: Andrea Bogusko, Mountain Top. President and co-chair, Sheila Butkiewicz, Susan Gorman, Judith

Katra, Mountain Top, Chairperson, Rachel Lipski, and Diane Shuleski, Mountain Top.

Many of the recitalists reside in the Mountain Top area. Student recitalists included: Rio Bantell, Erin Barno, Mountain Top; Delilah Boyle, Isabella Boyle, Adelynn Brill, Madden Brill, Sabian Bunnell, Mountain Top; Ryan Cardillo,

Mackenzie Carnecki, Doris Chen, Daria Clarke, Mia Correa, Nolan Cote, Natalie Fedor, Alex Ferik, Eric Gee, Mountain Top; Ben Gravine, Aarav Gupta, Grace Hamill, Rose Hancuff, Adam Hudock, Abigail Jerome, Owen Kline, Mountain Top; Joseph Kopko, White Haven; Ava Kozemko, Julien Lacroix, James Lavan, Mountain Top;

Rhea Mascarenhas, Mountain Top; Anisa Mohyuddin, Mountain Top; Vanessa Pinto, Rebekah Roskos, Scott Ruddy, Mountain Top; Chase Sciandra, Jameson Sciandra, Arushi Solgama, Mountain Top; Aleeza Syed, Mountain Top; Peyton Taylor, Julie Truschel, Mountain Top; Pauline Villafuerte, Mountain Top; Zane Villafuerte, Mountain Top; Max Weihbrecht, Jeremiah Wells, Dmitri Yarczower, Mountain Top; and Larisa Yarczower, Mountain Top.

Students who participated in adjudication only include: Madalyn Detweiler, White Haven; Jack English, Levi Nordstrom. All participants receiving a Superior are able to perform a memorized piece and via Youtube submit their performance to the state organization PMTA where they will receive a State Gold medal.



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MMI announces 2020-2021 first quarter honor roll

MMI Preparatory School has announced the names of students who achieved Honor Roll status during the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

Students are as follows:

Sixth Grade – Philip Benyo, Drums; Avari DeAngelo, Mountain Top; Zachary Jordan, Drums; Ruhani Shah, Mountain Top; Delilah Yatsko, Drums; and Sharon Zhuang, Mountain Top.

Seventh Grade – John Ferry, Drums; Adam Frask, Drums; Ruth Huey, Drums; Sharan Parikh, Mountain Top; Rishi Patel, Drums; Caleb Skuba, Drums; Arushi Solgama, Mountain Top; and Georgia Washko, Drums.

Eighth Grade – Aspen Crilley, Mountain Top; Thomas Horvat, Drums; Danica Karlick, Drums; Aubryannah O'Boyle, Mountain Top; Scott O'Boyle, Mountain Top; Kiyan Paknezhad, Mountain Top; Evan Pedri, Drums; and Mia-Lyn van den Berg, Mountain Top.

Ninth Grade – Emily Borchick, Drums; Brendon Brobst, Drums; Kyle Kocon, Mountain Top; Bria Kringe, Drums; Ethan Lloyd, Drums; Robert Orbin, Mountain Top; Kasra Paknezhad, Mountain Top; Jakob Rossi, Drums; Kathryn Sissick, Drums; Nathan Sissick, Drums; Connor Strecker, Mountain Top; and Heath Williams, Mountain Top.

10th Grade – Khristian Banks, Mountain Top; Annabel Dobash, Mountain Top; Anden Karlick, Drums; Erica Kline, Mountain Top; Manal Muham-

mad, Mountain Top; Caden Pease, Drums; Kasia Svendsen, Drums; and Lucille van den Berg, Mountain Top.

11th Grade – Andrew Blasko, Mountain Top; Lindsay Horvat, Drums; Amelia Minzola, Drums; Katelyn Overa, Drums; Connor Spencer, Mountain Top; Althea Stewart, Drums; Morgan Strecker, Mountain Top; Kennedy Tavaris, Mountain Top; and Grace Warner, Drums.

12th Grade – Lindsay Braustein, Mountain Top; Alexis Dalesandro, Drums; McKenna

Gallagher, Drums; James Kelly, Mountain Top; Dominique Kline, Mountain Top; Sydney Kohl, Mountain Top; Katherine Lewandowski, Mountain Top; Noah Long, Mountain Top;

Kevin McNulty, Forty Fort; Hiba Muhammad, Mountain Top; Ethan Stine, Mountain Top; Millie Symbula, Drums; Peter Walko, Drums; and Colin Williams, Mountain Top.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes in 2021!

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Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top supports local community service organizations

The Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top made donations recently to two outstanding community service organizations, The Salvation Army and the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. Both of these organizations focus on the needs of the less fortunate, especially hunger relief, which is especially important during these difficult times. The donation to the Soup Kitchen was made in memory of Marshall Jacobson, who was a long-time member and leader of the local Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanis International and the Pennsylvania Kiwanis District announced that no dues would be collected from any new members through the end of the current club year, which ends September 30, 2021. If you would like to try out the club, now would be an excellent time to do so. Please contact Brian McLaughlin at 570-868-5861 for information.



Kiwanis member Mike Hill presents a check to Mike Cianciotta from St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen.



Kiwanis member Mike Hill presents a check to Lt. Ismael Orti from the Salvation Army.



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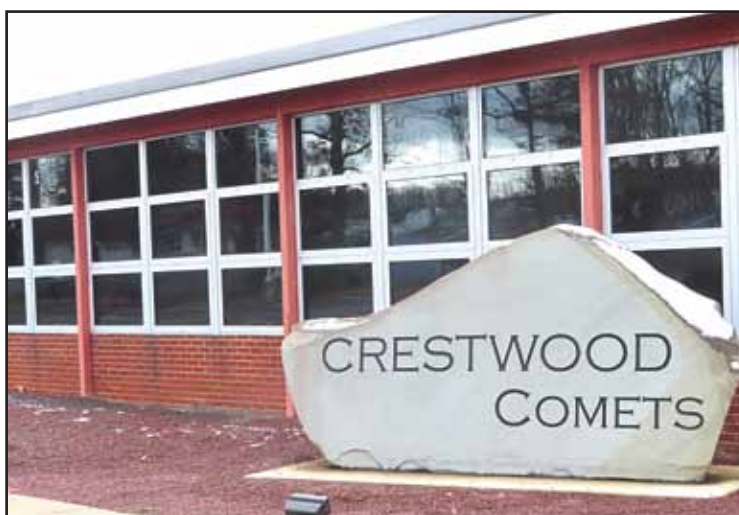
Award ...

Continued from page 17

neering, finance, and executive capacities. He currently leads a Global Analytics team for a technology-based company in Waltham, MA. A resident of the White Haven area, he serves as treasurer of the Crestwood Education Foundation and as a director on the Crestwood Athletic Foundation.

Benz expressed his excitement about chairing the committee tasked with recommending the first group of recipients to the board. "I have a great deal of gratitude for the education I received in the Crestwood School District," Benz stated. "I wouldn't be where I am today without it," he added.

Other committee members are Barry Boone, school board president, vice chairman; Kathleen (Stevie) Stortz, secretary; Attorney Angel Mae Webby-Zola; Attorney Casey Sauerwine; Ted Geffert; and Harry Zearfoss. Benz pointed out the diversity of the com-



mittee with regard to age, mix of gender and geographic locations of its members.

The committee chairman feels the two objectives of the award are equally important. "Many people in the district and the community do not realize the quality of our graduates," Benz offered. The Distinguished Alumnus Award, he feels, gives the district the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates. "There is no shortage of amazing stories," he com-

mented.

Additionally, Benz sees having an assembly where current students can hear from the award recipients as an invaluable experience. "This can inspire our current students," Benz offered. "They will have the opportunity to hear from people who've gone before them, people who have gone on to do great things," he related.

A plaque will be presented to the award recipients that will be displayed prominently in the high school.

To date, the committee has received about two dozen nominations, Benz reported. He encourages community members to submit nomina-

tions before the January 15 deadline. "Even if you think someone has already been nominated, submit your own nomination," Benz encouraged. "You may know something about the nominee that the other person didn't," he explained. He pointed out that multiple nominations of

the same person is something the committee will consider a plus.

The committee will recommend three alumni for the 2021 award. The school board has authorized up to two awards in coming years. Nomination forms will be kept on file forever, Benz noted.

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St. Jude youth hold poinsettia sale at St. Jude



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Members of St. Jude youth group stand with some of the beautiful red poinsettias the day of the sale. From left are Kathy Munt-

A poinsettia sale was held at St. Jude's by the youth of the church on Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the front of the church. The six-inch red poinsettias were sold for \$10 each. St. Jude youth helped by

zenberger, Jaden Shedlock, Luke Vanchure, Christopher Schlude, Lauren Lokuta and Josh Van Pelt.

attracting attention near 309, taking the orders and putting the beautiful Christmas plants into customer vehicles. The event was held as a drive-by only sale due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Members of the Knights of Columbus unload vehicles filled with food items for the food bank.

Knights hold fall food drive

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6440, held a food collection in the parking lot of St. Jude Catholic Church on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. Some of the items collected were cans of vegetables, fruit, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, pumpkin, apple sauce, soup, boxes of stuffing mix, pie crust mix, Bisquick, jello, pudding, instant potatoes, and hot roll mixes. The community came together in a huge way and donated many food items for the Thanksgiving holiday that were given to the Mountain Top Food Bank for distribution.

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Jay Thomas lands his dream job as Crestwood band director, music teacher

Don't tell Jay Thomas that you can never come home.

Thomas has done just that, and he loves it.

The Crestwood High School graduate left Mountain Top in 1997 when he joined the United States Marine Corps after earning a degree from Mansfield University. Twenty-two years later Thomas and his family returned to Mountain Top where he eventually landed his dream job, band

director and music teacher at Crestwood High School.

Thomas' military career involved two active duty stints with the Marine Corps and three years with the Texas Air National Guard.

During his first four years in the Marines, Thomas was a musician and librarian with "The Commandant's Own" Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps. in Washington, D.C. He was the unit's soprano bugler,



Jay Thomas

soloist, ceremonial bugler, and librarian.

After leaving the Marines in 2001, he took a job in Texas as assistant band director at South Grand Prairie Texas High School. He also enlisted in the Texas Air National Guard where he served as principal trumpet player.

He re-enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2005 where he was involved in the Marines' band programs until his retirement in 2015.

After his retirement, Thomas remained in Texas, his wife's home state, where he returned to South Grand Prairie High School. There he directed all aspects of the high school band program. "Texas is a real hotbed for bands," Thomas noted. "In Texas, high school bands are on the same level as football around here."

Over the years, Thomas and his family made several trips back to Mountain Top where his parents still reside. "We eventually decided to move back here so my family could experience all the things I did growing up," he related. Thomas, his wife and three children moved back to Mountain Top in December 2019. His

See Thomas, page 26

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Thomas ...

Continued from page 25

oldest daughter is in college, while two younger children are students at the Crestwood secondary campus.

He landed a job as a music teacher in Lake-Lehman School District, but eventually got his dream job with the Crestwood School District. He noted that he began playing the trumpet as a fourth grader and became a member of the Crestwood High School band which was led by former director Bill Penzwater, who retired in 2011.

"I am excited to come home and lead the band here at Crestwood," Thomas offered. "I really want to bring it back to where it was," Thomas stated. "I want to give our students the opportunity to experience all the good things I did when I was in the band," he said. "Moving back gives me the opportunity to give back," he added.

While he wasn't officially appointed to his position until July 30, Thomas began

working with music students in March, shortly before the Covid 19 pandemic shut down schools. The pandemic created an obstacle for Thomas and band members. "Marching

band relies so much on participation and performance," he explained. "It was difficult to work with the kids and engage them from a performance standpoint."



Seniors band members include, first row, Noah Kendra, Nicole McFarlane, Brayden Fenwick, Alex Covelens, Reece Wagner, Bennett Yermal and band director Jay Thomas.

Thomas relied on Zoom and Google Meeting for instruction and rehearsal, which did not replace in-person instruction. "It wasn't the same as going into the band room and rehearsing," he related.

Thomas found an opportunity for the band to perform in early July as part of the Mountain Top Area Community Association's July 4 celebration held in the high school park-

ing lot. The band performed patriotic music that was aired over WVIA radio. It has since performed at home football games.

The new band director hopes the football game performances are just the tip of the iceberg as far as the music program's future. "My goal is to get everyone together in the band room so we can put together a really good concert," he said.

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Dorrance Fire Department holds drive by Christmas Wonderland

The Dorrance Township Volunteer Fire Department held a drive-by Christmas Wonderland on the fire department grounds on Saturday, December 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event included a beautiful display of lights, letter writing to Santa, goodies for the whole family including pets and a Toys for Tots drop off station.

The department grounds were beautifully decorated with lights and blow-up decorations, there was a Santa's Workshop and much more.

This event was free and open to the public. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there to wave to all the children wishing them a very Merry Christmas. Gifts were handed out for the children at the exit.

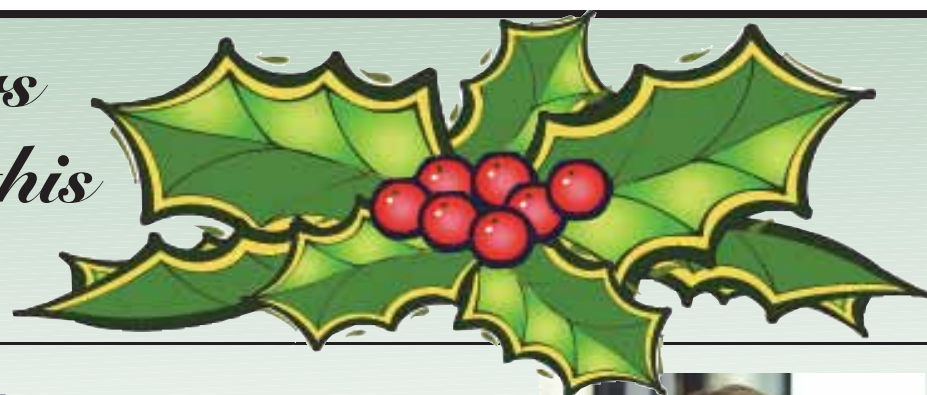


Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos
Santa's workshop is in full swing at the Dorrance Volunteer Fire Department's Christmas Wonderland.



Mrs. Claus receives a letter to Santa from a child at the Christmas Wonderland.

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We've Got Mail ...

Advent reflections on hybrid learning

Dear Editor,

As a mom of three children – ages 17, 16 and 14, with different learning styles and needs – the pandemic has shaken up how my kids do school. As the CEO at Immanuel Christian School in Hazleton, it has also shaken up how we do education, but not why. So during this Advent season of expectant waiting, I'm choosing gratitude from lessons learned and hoping these might inspire our community to truly

focus on getting our children the best education they deserve, even in the midst of a pandemic.

After nearly seven months of children learning remotely in our community, we are seeing the achievement gap widen like never before. Did you know that during this season of Covid-19, less than 50 % of students across the U.S. are reported as showing up for class and having direct interaction with their classes and teachers? With nearly 25 %

of Hazleton families living below the poverty line, these statistics scare me because I know this demographic is getting hit the hardest. Nearly half of my student body represents this demographic. And this is where the gratitude comes in for the step of faith my team took to implement a hybrid instructional model that we weren't sure would work. Yet, with 100% attendance, it is.

At Immanuel Christian School, our vision is to dramatically impact the city of Hazleton by empowering generations of diverse students, through Christ-centered education, to love God, serve others, and bless the world. Like the majority of public schools, this pandemic hit us hard. We don't have enough space to accommodate in-person learning, while adhering to needed safety protocols that protect students, staff and teachers. Yet, unlike public schools, we had greater flexibility with our response. We chose a hybrid model that has allowed every student to be in-person twice a week and fully remote, with direct instruction, three days a week. It has worked so well that we are now evaluating the possibility of moving to three days of in-person instruction a week after the holidays. Here are a few lessons learned:

Kids need connection. They need connection with their teacher and their peers. The hybrid model allows the teacher and the child to have a real relationship through in-person learning, which then adds value and significant effectiveness to the online days. Honestly, this correlation came as a surprise. Given how much work



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Mail...

Continued from page 29

the Hybrid model has been for our teachers and staff, I questioned if such limited time of in-person learning would be worth the effort. Yet, the evidence is telling me that with 100% attendance in remote and in hybrid, without loss to the learning, it is working. When our team thinks about the vision behind WHY we do

education, we know these connections matter. Our city. Our country. We all need these kids to thrive and not fall further behind. They are our future.

Kids need calm. In a time of unrest in our own country, exacerbated by the pandemic, our children need to have some form of stability. Many of our families at ICS have parents who are working two jobs, or third shift, or are single parent households. Given how many

under-resourced kids there are in the greater Hazleton area, I can only imagine the stress that fully remote learning has placed on parents. Our children need the calm and order that being in school, even if for two days a week, can provide.

Kids need compassion. Families need compassion. This pandemic has stretched my own family. I know it is stretching everyone. The hybrid model allows us to look a child

in the eyes, even socially-distanced and behind a mask, to say, "You are safe. We are here for you. We understand how scary this is, but you're not alone and we will get through this together." I know that level of compassion from teachers has made a huge difference in my own children's lives. My kids can't hide behind the camera when they're in the classroom.

Immanuel Christian School

is fortunate to have the freedom as a non-public institution to respond to the needs of our community in a quick and flexible way. We will not let the achievement gap widen for our students. My hope is that the incredible administra-

See Mail, page 31

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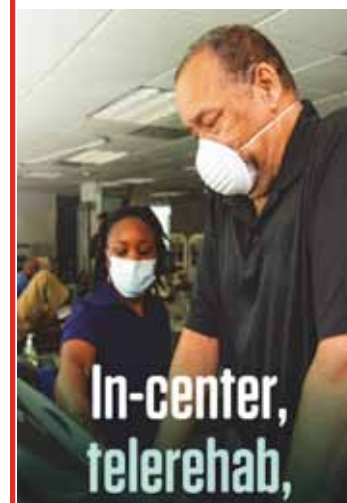


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Mail...

Continued from page 30

tors and teachers in the public schools can also be given

the freedom to choose creative options for getting children back to school, as they start the new year. COVID has changed things and even when it dissi-

pates, we will not be the same as before. Let's find creative ways to offer our children the connection, calm and compassion they need during this time

of waiting and help them step into hope. And as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let's also remember the baby who came to change the world. It's

this eternal hope that will quiet our hearts and bring us joy.

Thank you,
Susan J. Selby, CEO

Immanuel Christian School

Feed A Friend amazing success in Mountain Top

Dear Editor,

This year's Feed A Friend project was an amazing success thanks to the generosity of the people of Mt. Top and surrounding areas. Covid made things interesting for sure as we had to revamp how we did things for the safety of every volunteer. In the end, we were able to provide the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal to 95 Mt. Top area families. Meals included all of the traditional items such as cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, as well as fresh foods such as carrots, celery, onions, and potatoes. We were also able to provide eggs, milk, bread, and butter.

The families also had the choice of either an apple or a pumpkin pie. Turkey vouchers were provided by CEO; however, some did not receive their voucher. No family left without a turkey if they needed one. It is not possible to thank everyone individually; however, there are a few that were instrumental in making the project a success. Kara at Carone's Market, thank you for dealing with basically everything associated with our fresh food purchase and dealing with my many phone calls. Carone's Market for great prices on the fresh items we needed and for collecting monetary donations. Weis Markets thank you for the

donation of baked goods. The Boy Scouts under the direction of Mike Hill for picking up donations and delivering them to St. Paul's. Thank you to the people of Mt. Top who donated food either into our barrels, at a food drive, or had the Boy Scouts pick up on your porch. Thank you to the Girl Scout troops that helped us sort food as part of our skeleton crew. That was a huge undertaking! Thank you to the people and organizations that donated money, including, but not limited to, anyone who donated at Carone's, National Wild Turkey Federation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Thrivent Financial.



Some of the Feed A Friend volunteers.

Masonite Doors in Northumberland thank you for the turkeys. Please know that no deed went unnoticed, no matter how small and even if you haven't been mentioned. You have all in some way helped make Thanksgiving better for many of our neighbors

in need. In addition, the Mountain Top food bank shelves have been stocked with over 19,000 pounds of food. God bless you all and may you all have a blessed and safe holiday season.

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8th Grade

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C. Anderton, Brandi L. Aton, Abigail R. Barna, Sydney S. Beddingfield, Kelsey A. Benn, Abigail R. Burton, Persephone L. Cunningham, Alyson D. Decker, Dane J. DiLodovico, Kyle A. Draina, Allison Drust, Ava G. Evans, Nasrin M. Hendon, Shannon Jameson, Cole A. Kline, Kylie D. Kranson, Evelyn K. Kruczek, Jacob M. Lettieri, Jolin Lin, Natalina Manganiello, Allena M. Martinez, Claudio M. Mateos II, Elijah S. Meadows, Sarah Mert, Cayden R. Moran, Carson J. Moyer, Ella M. Novelli, Shiv H. Patel, Alexa R. Paul, Benjamin Radziewicz, Lorelai Russomano, Christopher G. Schlude, Audrey A. Shebelock, Jack C. Storm, Jarod C. Thomas, Owen R. Weyhenmeyer, Michael J. Yeager

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High Honor Roll (3.700-3.999 GPA):

Jenna R. Alexander, Mary Kate Banford, Timothy R. Bates, Annabel G. Bogdon, Nicholas A. Borelli, Austin Campbell, Madelyne P. Carmichael, Kara A. Col-

lins, Donald W. Croughn III, Mason P. Czapla, Scarlett M. Evans, Mayson Girton, Osten M. Grigas, James L. Grosz, Lindsey Gustas, Deven B. Hazlak, Lily M. Hughes, George E. Jennings IV, Lauren E. Kijek, Morgan L. Koons, Anastasia A. Kostin, Ryan D. Kozich, Matthew B. Kralj, Tyler J. Kruczek, Andrew P. Lenahan, Joseph J. Lokuta, Bianca C. Long, Aubrey Macri, Jake Y. Marich, Dylan J. Minet, Olivia G. Mitchell, Margaret C. Modrovsky, Haily E. Morales, Mallory A. Myers, Matthew S. O'Boyle, Olivia E. Oresick, Olivia Pesta, Carley Pocono, Evan C. Poncavage, Cameron W. Randall, Elisa E. Reluzco, Maggie A. Riccio, Lily A. Richman, Alese K. Ritts, Matthew K. Sklarosky, Madalyn E. Smith, Cheyenne T. Straub, Mikayla

See Honor Roll, page 33



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Honor Roll ...

Continued from page 32

M. Sullick, Mason A. Tomek, Brayden M. Wanchisen, Kayla L. Wisniewski, Katelyn A. Yohey, Madelyn E. Yohey

Honor Roll (3.250-3.699 GPA): Allen Angon, Allyson Babula, James Barrett, Donald R. Casterline, Maxwell E. Davis, Aidan C. DeMarzo, Robert C. Duffy,

Anna B. Elliott, Lexa A. Gluc, Jeremy N. Hart, Justin G. Hischar, Natalie M. Hunsinger, Samuel Jeckell, Derek J. Johnson, Connor R. Kearns, Jade A. Kenner, Colten N. Kolasensky, Naviah M. Labar, Lukas J. Lawson, Aleah M. Marchese, Natalie A. Matthews, Gabriel J. McLaughlin, Ashton M. Medeiros, Kennedy G. Mullen, Michael J. Mullisky, Declan P. Munley, Olivia M. Robatin, Joshua D. Rotski, Stephanie N. Scott,

Eliza Seifert, Julia M. Sinavage, Ashton L. Spaide, Lars M. Stephenson, Megan R. Werger, Jason T. Williams, Chester T. Wright III, Codie B. Yeager

10th Grade

Principal's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA): Jack T. Andrews, Zain Ansari, Michael E. Antosh, Trista S. Ball, Juliet R. Biscotti, Owen C. Blazick, Audrey Boellmann, Collin M. Bogdon, Grace Bovey, Katelyn Bozinko, Zachary R. Brannigan, Conor J. Buckley, Sheila M. Canaii, Caitlin A. Dushanko, Braiden C. Fallbright, Madison E. Foley, Julia K. Glowacki, Dylan A. Gower, Ainslee E. Green, Connor M. Herron, Cadence Hiller, Joshua R. Hilpp, Kennedie L. Huber, Noah W. Jakubowski, Madison A. Jolie, Raymond Joseph, Kayla E. Kresge, Dakota D. Langlitz, Brooke Lapinski, Grace E. Legg, Kaitlyn E. Leicht, Scott W. Lenio, Anthony L. Lettieri, Saige R. Magagna, Ellen E. Morris, Andrew S. Murawski, Grace C. Pasternick, Dhruv R. Patel, Mia J. Pollack, Andrew J. Poyer, Shreya D. Rupareliya, Francesca I. Scarano,

Luciano S. Schwartz, Hayley E. Selfe, Devin Shaw, Emma K. Sheloski, Jodi L. Simonton, Abigail A. Spaide, Ryan Stencavage, Alexis N. Stofko, Megan E. Stolpe, Mikayla B. Toney, Maxwell J. Wagner, Anthony Wan, Brenna M. Wehrenberg, Alexander J. Wiedlich, James J. Yurick

High Honor Roll (3.700-3.999 GPA):

Gemma Alberti, Morgan A. Bauch, Taylor Bayley, Marlena N. Bednar, Ceanna E. Belisle, Magnus M. Bibla, Jean L. Bonn, Isabella A. Caporuscio, Frances Cardenas, Santino A. Casarella, Madison E. Casey, Nicholas Cesario, Olivia V. Chappell, Camryn E. Collins, Andrew T. Conklin, Faith Delay, Anna R. DeSino, Jacob R. Dopp, Paige M. Fallbright, Tyler M. Furedi, Thomas R. Giralaldi, Allyson M. Gordon, Jessica Graziano, Emma Gudysh, Brandon M. Hamburger, Madison M. Hayes, Jaidyn N. Helmbold, Aidan J. Hoeft, Molly Jameson, Aidan A. Jardine, Olivia A. Jardine, Emma L. Kamowski, Mia Kane, Daniel S. Kernan, Robert T. Knight, Joseph P. Kraynak, Nicole A. Langan, Victoria W. Li, Anna-

belle M. Macurak, Makenzie G. Maguire, Evyn S. Makowski, Kaitlyn E. Martin, Aubrey M. McManus, Isaac C. Mertz, Sean J. Munson, John R. Nixon III, Grace E. Osiecki, Grace E. Pachick, Ella Panzik, John R. Plante, Logan J. Price, Bree A. Reilly, Willow R. Richman, Riley E. Robbins, Maria E. Roberts, Levi C. Schuler, Polina Serbina, Robert Shafer, Zachary R. Sheloski, Aidan C. Simko, Joseph Skipkoski, Jacob E. Slosky, Anna A. Stibick, Rebecca M. Tirpak, Emily L. Toronzi, Elianny S. Torres, Madison E. Van Gorden, Emma C. Vanchure, Julia A. Vogt, Owen M. Weaver, Jolie E. Weiss, Luke S. Wielgopolski, Mason M. Zavistoski

Honor Roll (3.250-3.699 GPA):

Lyndsay M. Anderton, Hailey M. Arnold, Jesse S. Barney, Alexis G. Beddingfield, Jayden T. Brooking, Jenna Brugger, Brandon A. Burbank, Victoria A. Butler, Noah M. Ceklosky, Leeann B. Cramer, Robert Davidson, Trevor J. Dean, Brendan P. Dennis, Kylie E. Doherty, Shane L. Forsythe, Aaron E. Gorka, Hayden J. Greenberg, Kylee M. Grimley, Ammie P. Grushke, Nicholas M. Humen, John K. Jones, Ryan M. Kachurak, Madison M. Kaminski, Olivia R. Kamowski, Caleb Keiser, Charles M. Lake, Oliver B. Larrabee, Julianna M. Martz, Hunter S. McLaughlin, Nick L. Miscavage, James A. Modrovsky, Sean A. O'Boyle, Tia O'Neill, Samantha A. Olszyk, Regina L. Pagarelski, Tessa J. Pollack, Elton J. Ricko, Maria Rilko, Arielle M. Rodriguez, Kellie E. Rother, Makayla T. Rutchauskas, Lauren M. Schmude, Noah R. Schultz, Christo-

See Honor Roll, page 34

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Continued from page 33

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11th Grade

Principal's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA):

Matthew J. Banford, Erin E. Barno, Makayla Breslin, Jack F. Brumagin, Sydney E. Bruno, Victoria M. Casarella, Natalie Charton, Sydney Charton, Kevin H. Cheng, Aubrey E. Colo, Molly K. DeMarzo, William N. Everett III, Kate E. Fenstermacher, Raina J. Fountain, Emma H. George, Nash E. Greene, Shannon Griffiths, Allison D. Gugliotti, Nicholas D. Gutkowski, Logan A. Haddix, Christopher E. Hannon, Alayna J. Harding, Jadya Hooper, Genavive M. Januszewski, Dhara Javia, Lauren R. Kalinowski, Zaiden Kaminsky, Katherine A. Kogoy, Joshua R. Kollar, Abbey R. Krzywicki, Samantha Kulp, Carter Laubach, Julia Lazo, Vicky Li, Cameron McCarthy, Megan McGovern, Megan McLaughlin, Arwa Mehra, Megan Mills, Ruth Mullisky, Reece Mylet, Jessica Niznik, Krista L. Papura, Tanisi J. Patel, Julia Poncavage, Chloe Pugh, Olivia L. Richards, Grant E. Rose, Sarah J. Russell, Jaden Scott, Elizabeth A.

Sheldon, Ethan Shudak, Abbey Smith, Zoe A. Stewart, Ava J. Usavage, Aidan J. Verdekal, Taylor Wine, Kayla Witinski, Derrick Xie, Darran Zimmermann JR, Nicole Zurawski

High Honor Roll (3.700-3.999 GPA):

Lauren Amend, Nathanael P. Barron, Rebecca Biddinger, Sara Bonn, Bisma Chaudhry, Hailey Clark, Ryan H. Covelens, Anthony B. Dangio II, Kayleigh Derwin, Leah Dietrich, Adele M. Dougherty, Nolan S. Dunnum, Braylen Feist, Evan Fey, Greer O. Gavin, Linsey Gluc, Melanie Golden, Ava M. Groth, Morgan Hodle, Madison Hudak, Johana E. Kernan, Riley Koch, Jessica Koptcho, Morgan Lawson, Claire Lenio, Zachary R. Meadows, Connor S. Murtha, Parth Patel, Nadia Peimany, Liam D. Petty, Chase Pugh, Hunter Rolles, Benjamin H. Rossi, Grace Rusinko, Conner Schefley, Kiara B. Schry, Brandon Schwartz, Paige Scott, John K. Sklarosky, Allyson J. Sodrosky, Rachel K. Stover, Kyleigh E. Thomas, Nathan D. Thomas, Ava Wanchisen, Nathan J. Weaver, Annabelle R. Witkowski, Adam Wood, Emily Woss, Quinn K. Zabiegalski, Andrew Zheng, Jessica Zimmermann

Honor Roll (3.250-3.699 GPA):

Olivia Aigeldinger, Emily E. Barley, Myatalia Barna, Hailey S. Borsuk, Donald Brady, Matthew M. Brannan, Sarah Daniels, Rachel Deets, Venessa Derwin,

Trent G. DiLodovico, Julia A. Dixon, Emma Domzalski, Julliana M. Esparza, Kira Fenwick, Joshua Fisher, Tristen M. Gallagher, Emma Gomes, Joseph A. Gzemski, Andrew J. Hischak, Phat X. Ho, Grace Jungermann, Abdul-Muhaimin Khan, Emily R. Kline, Hannah O. Lasoski, Sean T. Laurence, Sophia K. Novrocki, Taylor R. O'Farrell, Tyler M. Oresick, Seth M. Otte, Declan P. Palmiero, Nidhi H. Patel, Vanessa E. Paul, Stephanie L. Pollock, Kyla M. Pratt, Isabella M. Ramirez, Ricardo Reluzco, Kelsey Rinehimer, John V. Scanlan, Clarissa D. Snyder, Haley J. Sullick, Logan Walker, Jenna M. Williams

12th Grade

Principal's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA):

Samantha Andes, Zachary T. Antosh, Mitchell E. Awdakimow-Stec, Hana Bader, Yashu Bansal, Kyle A. Barley, Hillary R. Blazick, William J. Bogdon, Carly G. Bono, Sheradyn E. Boris, Faith E. Brandt, Marisa Brown, Kyle Buchanan, Ashleigh M. Button, Chloe Caplan, Anthony J. Conde, Jalyn G. Cook, Alex H. Covelens, Nicholas J. Curry, Emily A. Davidson, Brenden DeMarzo, Taylor A. Dodge, Francis Doherty, Jacob M. Eroh, Alexandria M. Feisel, Collin Gittens, Lily J. Glander, Elizabeth L. Glowacki, Joseph M. Gola, Madalynn T. Gregory, Ryan T. Harding, Victoria Harper, James Hawley, Bailey Hayes, Sarah

Jacob, Derek Jankowski, Helena I. Jardine, Madison T. Jeckell, Ava J. Johnson, Eric P. Johnson, Julia H. Johnson, Nicole A. Joseph, Anna Kahlau, Emily Kalada, Ella Kaminski, Raj H. Kaneriya, Taylor L. Kline, Avery M. Kovalchik, Nicholas A. Kreuzer, Julien C. Lacoste, Anastasia Lawson, Hailey A. Lee, Melanie Levier, Alexandra L. Lipinski, Nicole M. Macfarlane, Stone M. Magagna, Julia Martin, Mark S. Matysczak, Marissa McCune, Alyse A. McKennetts, Mallory E. Moratori, Kaylin Munley, Marley A. Myers, Colin J. Novatnak, Priyal Patel, Ryan M. Petrosky, Hunter J. Piech, Noah R. Prokarym, Griffen Riccio, Brooke Rinehimer, Abigail Roman, Alex J. Romanoski, Julia T. Rose, Ciera C. Rybak, Samuel Savitski Webb, Nicholas P. Schwartz, Karlie E. Searing, Dillon E. Shaw, Kaitlyn A. Smith, Matthew Smith, Lily Snyder, Elizabeth Supkowski, Jillian A. Taleroski, Maddux Testa, Jamie M. Thomas, Molly J. Truszkowski, Keilan A. Verdekal, Brittany L. Watt, Mason Webby, Jaden L. Weiss, Keirsten A. Whitmire, Brianna M. Wickiser, Taylor A. Yeager, Trey A. Zabroski, Jacob M. Zaleski, Michael D. Zaleski, Jeffrey I. Zoebisch

High Honor Roll (3.700-3.999 GPA):

Logan Arnold, Ariana Bewighouse, Ava Boellmann, Jeremy Buzak, Alexandria W. Carpenter, Avery L. Czapl, Matthew

Dean, Kaila P. Derr, Blake A. Dompkosky, Michael J. Enochs, Antonella A. Esparza, Adam S. Garraoui, Sonia A. Getten, Joseph Glazenski, Ryan Januszko, Abigail M. Karassik, Gavin Kosko, Ryan Kostiuik, Samantha Kotarsky, Christian J. Lake, Ethan J. Lieberman, Luna M. Maron-Barbrie, Sara J. Mascelli, Collin Palmiter, Angelica S. Pares Alicea, Dev V. Patel, Tanmay B. Patel, Ashley M. Paulino, Justine Rilkio, Nicholas Ruggeri, Michael J. Sheldon, Elyssa J. Valentine, Evangelos Victoros, Marcus A. Vieney, Reece A. Wagner, Trystan T. Wielgopolski, Dmitri Yarczower, Ashleigh L. Yedlock, Arron Yocius

Honor Roll (3.250-3.699 GPA):

Samantha Beers, Avery N. Bogdon, Trevor Bukowski, Aryanna R. Burke, Cameron Chalk, Caleb R. Deckman, Paul Feisel, Brayden Fenwick, Olivia R. Fisher, Kurt E. Grenzberg, Truong X. Ho, Trevor D. Inman, Narissa M. Jackson, Jareth D. Jungermann, Khushi E. Kansal, Breanna Kijek, Adam Litchkofski, Nathan J. Love, Brennan C. Magin, Nicholas R. Matthews, Caitrin Mullisky, John Olejnik, Noah J. Partington, Shivani P. Patel, Austin Payne, Soleil K. Reese, Jocene Romero Diaz, Hailey J. Schmidt, Nathan E. Sipple, Elliott Williams, Reese Yenchik, Bennett A. Yermal, Sydney M. Zaykoski



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Worship Together ...

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Saturday 6 p.m.

JP Bohanan, Pastor

175 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-474-6060

Each Sunday, at 10:45 a.m. the church offers an online only worship service shared live from Pastor JP's study. They strive to make the service highly interactive by integrating new elements prerecorded by different persons in the congregation each week and by offering a chat feature for those who are able to participate live. These services remain available on demand on the church website.

Sunday 9 a.m. sanctuary worship in person, with limited attendance permitted. All persons two years old and older must wear masks properly. Distance, hand

sanitizer, temperature taking, registration, and limited attendance are all part of the church's protocol. Preregister at <https://forms.gle/ZgpPmt-1vwVov6rMM8>.

In addition to Sunday worship, the church has a series of special events in the Advent and Christmas seasons. They are also providing Advent wreaths for families to use in household worship during the season. Contact the church office for more information.

Son of a carpenter: Sunday December 13 at 3 p.m. at A&R Building Supply on Church Road, Mountain Top, in their lumber warehouse. This building, open on three sides, provides the church an outdoor venue with the benefit of a roof. The program features skits, musical acts, Scripture readings, and carols. Masks are required,

along with physical distancing and a limit of 250 persons in attendance. Bring your own seating and dress for the weather. Pre-register or register when you arrive.

Walk on the Wild Side: An Exotic Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 4 p.m. at CDE Exotics, Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. This indoor event at an exotic animal rescue and pet store features a progressive nativity with Scripture, carols, and wild animals in the place of the familiar nativity characters. Thumper the skunk will make his premiere as Baby Jesus! Masks are required, along with physical distancing and a limit of 70 persons in attendance. Bring your own seating. Pre-register or register when you arrive (if space remains available).

Blue Christmas Service and Sharing on Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m., in video and/or phone conference only. This event is hosted by the Grief Support Group. Be prepared with a candle or substitute (flashlight). For the link or phone in options, contact Suzanne Bowman, church administrator.

An indoor service will be

held on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. and shorter outdoor services at 7 and 11 p.m. on the front lawn of the church. Masks are required, along with physical distancing and a limit of 45 persons indoors and 250 persons outdoors.

Pre-register for worship on Christmas Eve or register when you arrive.

For more information contact the church office at 570-474-6060, church email: ChristUMChurchOffice@gmail.com.

CONYNNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Graham Truscott, Pastor

411 Main Street, Conyngham
570-788-3960

Worship will continue online. To join them for worship virtually visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CUMCConyngham/>.

With the congregation not meeting in person at the church right now they have to get creative for advent.

So in place of a traditional in-person advent Bible study they turn to Facebook and Zoom. They want to encourage you to tune in to the midweek

moment each Wednesday evening, to take a deeper look at the scripture for the week. And while Facebook is great for exploring scripture, it doesn't always feel as interactive. So all of you are also invited to join them on Sundays after worship at 12:30 for a time to discuss the scripture, sermon, and Advent theme for the week. Because it's over Zoom this can also be a time of fellowship and prayer with each other. Here's the link to use. <https://duke.zoom.us/j/97910560854>. You can also call dial 646-876-9923 on your phone to call into the Zoom discussion. When it asks for a meeting ID type 979 1056 0854#. Then press # again when it asks for a personal ID. This works for any cell phone, whether it's a smart phone or not.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

Michael & Kim Pickreign, Pastors
3577 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-678-7231

Services are casual and family friendly. They are a group of believers passionate about sharing the gospel of Christ, healing broken hearts and seeking liberty for all who are oppressed.

Join them online weekly on Sundays at 10 a.m. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1494616649> or iPhone one-tap: US + 1 (470) 8692200, 1494616649# or telephone, dial + 1-470-869-2200, meeting ID: 149 461 6649.

The church is handicap accessible. For further information

See Worship, page 36



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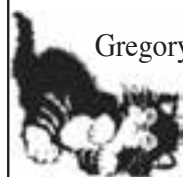
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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 35

contact Pastor Pickreign.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Louis Aita, Pastor

**7768 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance
570-868-5675**

Regular church services have resumed and they are following the CDC guidelines. They welcome visitors and friends to join them for worship every Sunday.

Emmanuel Church of Christ is holding a holiday homemade sauerkraut sale on Saturday, December 19 and Saturday, December 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. Homemade sauerkraut will be available to purchase for your holiday meals. The sauerkraut will be sold by the quart for \$5, no limits.

If recycling, place the cans in large bags and drop them off in the large crates at the back

of the lower parking lot.

The Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank is housed at Emmanuel UCC and is open by appointment only. All contacts are kept strictly confidential.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Lou Aita at 570-582-9550 or email him at aitatl12@ptd.net. E-mail access is emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com and the website is emmanuel-ucc.org.

FAITH CHURCH DRUMS

Service: Sunday 10 a.m.

Keith Evans, Pastor

**4 Rittenhouse Place, Drums
570-599-8123**

The church has now reopened for indoor services. 10 a.m.: Blended worship: music (contemporary and a hymn), encouraging corporate prayer, responsive reading, dynamic preaching, friendly and interactive, coffee, soda, tea, hot cocoa, water, snacks and more!

On Mondays and Tuesdays Faith Life Coaching and Counseling will take place. You can inquire by texting 570-599-8123, \$40 for group, \$60 for individual sessions.

On Sunday, December 13 at 10 a.m. David DeMarco: *Believe All Things Are Possible* family Christmas concert. Join them for a great worship experience.

On Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m. Faith Church Drums presents Family Talent Night. Come and share: song, worship, poems, reading, scripture, interpretive dance, sign language, art, paintings, and more. Sign up at faith-ag.com.

Bring the whole family for an event celebrating God's gift to the world Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, December 20 at 10 a.m. Faith Church presents The Children's Christmas Cantata. Come join them as they celebrate the birth of our

Savior.

If anyone is in need of help contact the pastor at 570-764-6444.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Services: Saturday: 6 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Michael J. Kloton, Pastor

**Route 309, Drums
570-788-3141**

All weekend Masses at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 8 and 9:30 a.m. will be available over your car radio. They ask that you park in the lower lot, to the left of the church,

See Worship, page 37



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 36

and tune your car radio to FM 98.3. You will be able to listen to the Mass over your radio in the comfort of your car and remain socially distant. At the end of Mass, an Extraordinary Minister will come to the parking lot to distribute Holy

Communion. If you bring your envelopes, those will also be collected. Spread the word!

Confessions during Advent will be heard on Mondays from 7 to 7:50 a.m., Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 5 to 5:30 p.m. in Father Kloton's office. Please enter and exit through the white

storm door located at the ramp entrance to the church.

Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas booklets are available on the tables by the church exits. Please take one as you leave the church.

Packs of Oplatki wafers are available on the tables by the church exits. The cost is \$3 per pack of five wafers. Please pick them up as you leave the church.

2021 calendars are on the tables by the church exits and can be taken as you leave the church.

The Valley Food Pantry has asked the congregation to collect baking ingredients for the Christmas boxes – sugar, flour, brown and powdered

sugar, and chocolate chips. The deadline for donations is Wednesday, December 16. Please check expiration dates. The staff of the Valley Food Pantry is very grateful for your donations and thanks you for your generosity!

The Head Start Giving Tree is up and decorated with gift tags. Parishioners are asked to select a tag, purchase a gift, and return the wrapped gift and tag by Sunday, December 13.

GRACE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
and 6 p.m.
Brian Korner, Pastor

Blue Ridge Trail, Slocum Twp. 570-868-6298

An old fashion Bible believing church still using the 1611 King James Version Bible and singing old favorite hymns.

The church is holding services online on its Facebook page.

The church has a bookstore, "Growing in Grace." They have a good selection of KJV Bibles, music, and various other items.

To contact the church call 570-868-6298 or email Kornerb@Truevine.net.

HARVEST CONYNGHAM VALLEY Services: Sunday 10 a.m. Jeff Butala, Pastor 475 Main Street, Conyngham 570-788-1055

At Harvest Conyngham Valley their focus is to make quality disciples. They believe a quality disciple: Worships Christ, Walks with Christ and Works for Christ.

Harvest Bible Chapel is a church of Small Groups. Each regularly attendee of Harvest is encouraged to join a small group for fellowship, encour-

See Worship, page 38

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 37

agement, bible study and prayer.

Harvest Church is holding in-person and online services on Sundays at 10 a.m. on its Facebook page.

For more information visit harvestcv.org or Harvest Conyngham Valley on Facebook.

MOUNTAIN TOP BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Dale Mooney, Pastor
865 Church Rd., Mountain Top
570-868-6863

MOUNTAINTOP FAMILY CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Brian Knorr, Pastor
209 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-0900

Mountaintop Family Church will be holding a drive-by live nativity scene on Friday,

December 11 and Saturday, December 12 from 5:30-8 p.m. They hope everyone in the community will add this to their list of Christmas light sight-seeing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Children in 6th grade and younger will receive a Christmas goodie bag and there will also be something special for teens and adults.

Two Christmas Eve services will be held on December 24: 5-6 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Due to Covid 19, this year's seating will be limited. To help with this, tickets will be needed to attend each service. The tickets are free and are good for the service time on the ticket. If both services fill, they may consider adding a third service. Face masks will be required for the entire service. These services will also be live-streamed through the MFC webpage, YouTube and Facebook. To obtain tickets, please

contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com.

Mountaintop Family Church is holding modified Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. for one hour. They ask that anyone who has been sick, has recently been exposed to Covid-19, has a compromised health condition to join them for online services.

Sunday morning services are also available through live-stream: MFC Webpage: www.mfcchurch.com/live-stream; Youtube: search for Mountaintop Family Church; Facebook: go to Mountaintop Family Church Facebook page.

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend their own service on Sunday mornings during the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. Students can join the adults in the sanctuary for worship and will then be taken to the Youth Room for the youth service. Students attending

are asked to wear masks and observe social distancing standards.

Zoom meetings are being held throughout the week and the links for the Zoom meetings can be obtained by emailing Debbie@mfcchurch.com. Zoom meetings: Men's and Women's Groups are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Ground Zero56 for grades 5 and 6 and Starting Point Youth for grades 7-12 are both held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Canvas Young Adult Group is held on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 if you have any questions or would like more information.

MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Service: Sunday 10 a.m.
Brook Selby, Pastor
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,
White Haven
570-443-9438

Join them on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. or in the building at 11 a.m. on Sundays for worship

See Worship, page 39

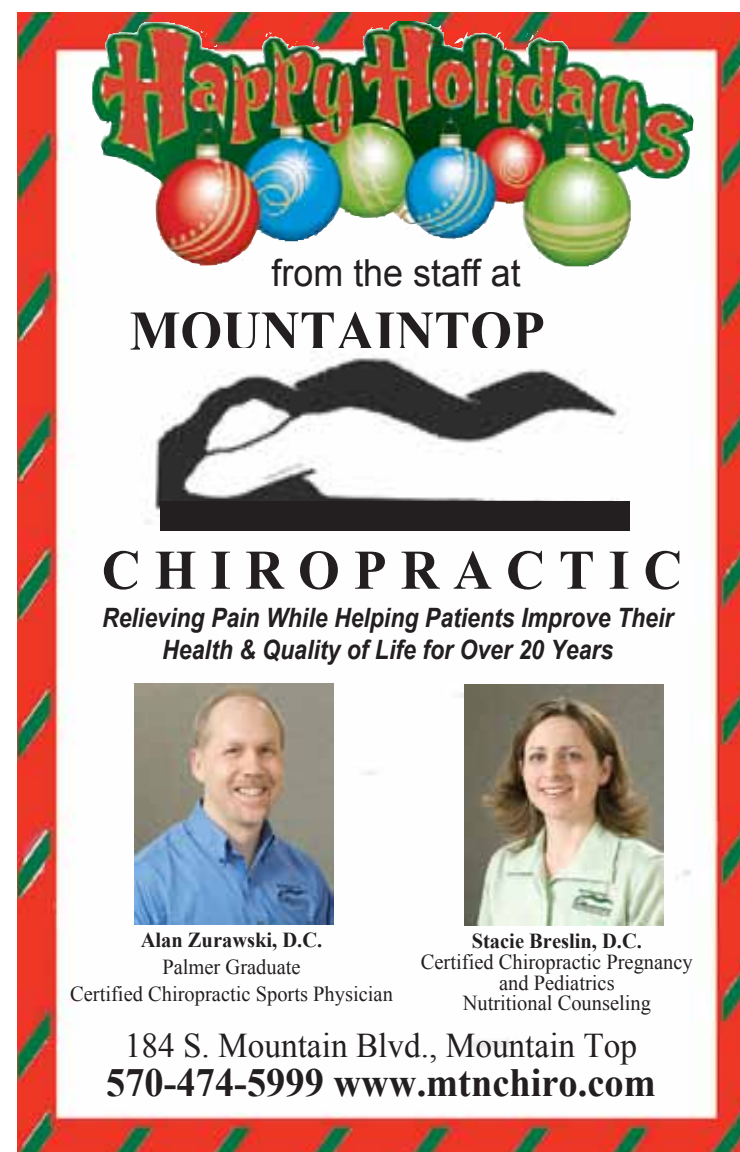


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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 38

service. To view via Zoom contact Sarah Gardner for the link at 570-261-5064 or 410-703-6088. You can also view the services on the church's Facebook page.

Christmas Eve service, December 24, 7 p.m., come and join the Mountainview family for our Christmas Eve service. Kids (and adults too, if you like!), wear pajamas, bring stuffed animals and blankets. They will hear the Christmas account and will then sing Silent Night by candlelight.

Have you ever been interested in learning how to put together a sermon? Pastor Brook will soon be starting up a group open to anyone interested in walking through the

process from initial Bible study to final product.

This group will start December 12 from 7:30-9 p.m. via ZOOM. It will continue for 6-8 weeks with a break for the holidays. Contact Pastor Brook for more information 570-580-0808.

Baptism is a public declaration that Jesus alone is your Lord and Savior. It is your pledge to follow him and him only, for the rest of your lives. It is a ritual where we make clear our need to die to ourselves and our need to be daily resurrected by God. Pastor Brook will be doing baptisms and dedications December 13! (Don't worry, the water is heated, and it is indoors!) Please talk with Pastor if you would like more information.

For those who are wondering, yes, our tradition allows us to declare our faith and be baptized as adults even if we were baptized as children.

The Young Adults group at Faith Church in Hazleton will be meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month at 4 Rittenhouse Place in Drums. Next one is December 20.

All small groups are meeting via conference call or Zoom video chat or in person.

Contact Pastor Brook for more information about small groups and gatherings: Brook Selby, Pastor 570-580-0808 www.MountainviewNEPA.org.

MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.

Pastors: Bob Thomas and

Rev. Fran Fink Lily Lake Road, Slocum

Come worship in a real country church. Built in 1891, Mt. Zion still has no running water and uses an outhouse for their rest room facilities.

Pastor Bob Thomas will lead the worship service on December 13.

Special guest speaker Cindy Faust will lead the service on December 20.

For more information on church guidelines and services, please contact Diane Webster at 570-379-3713.

NEW HOPE WAPWALLOPEN CHARGE

Services:

Faith UMC: 8:45 a.m.

Stairville UMC: 10 a.m. Slocum UMC: 11:15 a.m.

**Scott O. Miller, Pastor
Stairville Road, Mountain Top**

The three churches have cancelled their services. There is no Sunday School or other church activities at this time. Christmas Eve services have been cancelled.

For any needs or concerns, please contact: Faith UMC: Wilma Baratta at 570-200-5329; Stairville UMC: Christine Kellow at 570-868-3413; Slocum UMC: Charles Herring at 570-868-6478.

Pastor Scott can be reached by phone, text, or email at: 570-200-5388, email: somiller@susumc.org.

Visit them on Facebook at New Hope Wapwallopen.

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services: Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

See Worship, page 40



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 39

Pastor: John Broglin
570 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5155

New Life Community Church, invites you to come and worship the way it used to be.

The church has reopened for in-person services at 50% seating capacity. Please bring your own Bible as they will not be using the pew Bibles, hymnals or bulletins at this time.

Join them for their Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join them for a time of Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you prefer to join in with Bible study using Zoom, please contact Pastor John.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN TOP

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Neil Partington
9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, December 13, the third Sunday of Advent, via Facebook Live and back in the sanctuary. There are 2 sanitizing stations available, and masks will be required as well as social distancing. If you have been ill during the 2 weeks prior to any service, you are asked to stay home and join in on Facebook. They will continue to make the service available live on Facebook and for replay. Worship begins at 11 a.m. with Sunday School available at 9:30 for anyone who would like to attend. Social distance guidelines will be followed. Please continue to mail your tithes if you are not attending in person.

Advent devotionals are available for all in the sanctuary. Please pick up your copy.

The church is also collecting diapers and sanitary products for Brandon's Forever Home. For more information see Elder Nancy Badal.

On Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. there is a fireside chat/Bible study for anyone interested. These are Zoom meetings and can be joined on video at <http://PAiu.zoom.us/j/52653314753> or can be joined by phone at 267-831-0333 meeting number 5263314753. These numbers

will be the same for all meetings. Zoom is no longer available for Sunday worship.

The Youth Group is very thankful for all who have given "Stars of Hope" gifts for needy Mountain Top children. There is still time to get involved and there are blank stars available if you know a child that needs a little extra this year!

The church is scheduling times for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please let Lynne Mizikosky know if you wish to attend the 6 or 7:30 p.m. service.

The Mountain Top Food Bank is still open Fridays from 9:15 a.m. til 12 noon for those in need of food assistance. It is located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Route 309.

If you have any questions about the church or its ministries call 570-474-9951 or find them on Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Mountaintop PA.

**ST. JAMES
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
Oliver Brown, Pastor
827 E. County Road, Wapwallopen
570-379-3878

The church would like to keep you up to date on the happenings at St. James as they prepare for the celebration of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 7 p.m. with some changes due to Covid. Social distancing will be maintained; masks are strongly recommended and there will not be

See Worship, page 41

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 40

individual candles. There will be candles at the end of the

pews.

The church is accepting donations of women's and children's hat, scarves, socks,

gloves and underwear until December 20. There is a collection box in the narthex and all items will be donated to Beyond Violence in Berwick and Domestic Violence Center in Wilkes-Barre.

Due to Covid restrictions, the annual Christmas party will not be held.

Sunday School will not begin until September 2021.

Thank you to Todd, Heather and Aaron Henry for the tablet they donated to Diane Mulka. Thank you to Nick Gallamo for helping with the water prob-

lems recently. We appreciate the Houdini efforts needed for this. Thank you to everyone who donated items for Ruth's place. The church received a lovely thank you note from them stating how much they appreciated the items. Thank you to all who helped clear the basement for the replacement of the floor and to Eileen, Paula and Rachel for painting the walls. Thank you to those who help with the continued food distribution. "God's work; Our hands." Thank you to Dave Smith for the wonderful job of

mowing done this year.

There is a new elected bishop. His name is Christopher De Deforest.

Boy Scouts Pack 300 is looking for kids to join. There are two scouts still in attendance, but some former members who have completed Eagle Scouts would like to get the troop back on track. The meetings will begin shortly. Watch for Troop 300 on Facebook or call Gay at 570-262-2762.

Confirmation classes have been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19. Sunday School classes have been postponed.

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**ST. JUDE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Services: Saturday 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 & 11 a.m.

**Father Joseph J. Evanko, Pastor
420 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6315**

St. Jude Church is now open for private prayer from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Parish office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Daily Masses have resumed following the regular schedule: Monday to Friday, 7 a.m.

Weekend Masses have resumed with the normal Mass schedule. Registration is required for weekend Masses. Each Monday they will post the link for St. Jude parishioners to register for the coming weekend Mass. The link will be posted at www.stjc.org. Please refer to the website for all requirements. Any questions or difficulty with registration, call the Parish Office, 570-474-6315, ext. 221.

Christmas masses will be held on December 24, Christ-

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See Worship, page 42

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 41

mas Eve at 2, 4, 7 p.m. and at midnight. December 25, Christmas Day Mass will be held at 8 and 10 a.m. Please visit St. Jude's website, www.stjc.org or phone the office at 570-474-6315 to make your Christmas Mass reservations. Reservations close on December 21. You will need to provide your first and last name, an email or cell phone number, the number attending, as well as your Mass time. Within a week you will receive an email or phone call confirming your reservation. If you do not, please call the front office to verify. If you need to change your Mass time or the number attending, please call the office ASAP. They will accommodate you with your request as best as possible.

Unfortunately, because of Covid cases rising in the county, they had to cancel Christmas caroling that was to be

held December 13.

St. Jude shrine is open to light a candle and say a prayer for one person at a time. This will be available the same times as the church private prayer hours, Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. As always, please follow the safety protocols when entering any building; face masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

285 Pond Hill Mt. Road Wapwallopen 570-735-8531

The congregation of St. Mark's invites everyone to join them as they share God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.

St. Mark's is a small country church with a big Christian heart! They believe they are called to: Be the body of Christ: His heart, His hands, His voice!

Like them on Facebook, "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pond Hill PA", to see pictures and announcements.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

Rev. Daniel FitzSimmons, Rector
3085 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5358

All services and activities are temporarily postponed.

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, of which St. Martin's is an independent parish, provides live streaming of Sunday worship service and other services throughout the week from the Cathedral of the

Nativity. Go to diobeth.org for a full listing. Rev. Timothy Alleman, Priest in charge at their sister parish, St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, prays morning, noon and evening prayer on his Facebook page.

He has also continued his healing services on Mondays and Wednesdays at noon.

For more information visit stmartintimeless.org or call Patty Siegel at 570-868-5690.

See Worship, page 43

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 42

ST. MARY'S OF DORRANCE

Services: Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Father Joseph Evanko, Pastor

3529 St. Mary's Road, Dorrance
570-868-5855

Updated guidelines for church: The heat is on so doors will no longer be propped open. The cone will have a green welcome sign displaced alerting

you that the doors are open and you may enter. As reservations increase you need to be mindful of protocols: sanitize your hands before entering and upon exiting; face coverings must be worn at all times; assigned seats are needed for weekend Masses; once seated you may not switch pews; if assigned a "wall" or "aisle" seat please sit at the end of the pew allowing distance for people at the other end of the pew; and requests for specific pews cannot be accepted.

Registration is required for weekend Masses. The link is posted on the church website and Facebook page, and emailed every Monday. Choose Saturday or Sunday then click that link.

Necessary meetings are permitted in the social hall. All groups must adhere to strict protocols. Groups are limited to 25 people or less, with social distancing and masks. Groups must sanitize after use. Upcoming meetings are: Knights of Columbus on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

In an effort to minimize the impact of Covid-19 Saint Mary's parish is introducing a new fundraiser. 2021 Lottery calendars are printed with a three digit number that corresponds with the PA evening Daily Number (7 p.m.). They make a great Christmas gift for the person on your list who is hard to buy for! You can purchase a 2021 Lottery Calendar for a very reasonable price of \$30 (\$365 if purchased at retail). Winners may receive \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100, or \$200 depending on the day. Calendars are available after Mass, from the parish office, or via email/phone: stmarysdorrance@gmail.com /868-5855.

The Altar & Rosary Society is taking orders for Christmas rolls. There are eight varieties available. Cost is \$7. Please place your pre-paid orders in the collection box or call Susan by December 13. Rolls will be available for pick up December 21, after noon in the rectory meeting room. Questions/orders: Susan 570-868-6983.

Visit Saint Mary's website: stmarydorrance.org; Facebook Page: Saint Mary's of Dorrance and Saint Mary's of Dorrance Youth Group or call 570-868-5855 for more info. Parish office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday: 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Peter O'Rourke,
Sacramental Minister
411 Allegheny St., White
Haven
570-443-9944

St. Patrick's Church welcomes all to visit and worship with them. Contact the parish office if you would like to become a member of the parish. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Safety guidelines for attending mass: Face masks must be worn covering the nose, mouth and chin. The only time a face mask may be adjusted is when receiving Holy Communion. Pews are marked for social distancing. Please maintain a safe social distance of six feet from others in all directions. The only exception is for families who live in the same household. The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after the conclusion of Mass. At this time, communion received in the hand is preferred. Communicants will maintain social distancing in the communion line. After receiving communion, the faithful will depart the church and proceed directly to their vehicles.

A reminder that gifts for the Giving Tree must be returned to St. Patrick Church by 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 13. Place the tag on the wrapped gift with the Family Number showing. The Family Number is on the other side of the tag from the item described.

For the safety of everyone due to Covid, reservations are required to attend Christmas masses. The church has a limited seating capacity of 44 to maintain six feet social distancing. Masses are as follows: Christmas Eve: 4 and 6



Happy Holidays!

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ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Services: Saturday 5 p.m.

See Worship, page 44

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 43

p.m. Christmas Day: 10:15 a.m. Call the parish office at 570-443-9944 no later than Friday, December 18.

If you would like information about joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact Jim Curto at 570-443-8494.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6616

With numbers rising in Luzerne County, St. Paul's has made the decision to move both services outdoors once more. Join them at 9 and 11 a.m. Everyone is wel-

come to join them for worship. It is the safest way to gather. They look forward to seeing you as they begin their journey to Christmas.

For those unable to join them, Pastor has been recording services viewable on their Facebook page and website www.stpaulsmthood.com.

The church office will be open Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. For those who cannot get out or are in need of assistance please contact the church office and leave a message or contact Pastor Kaufman at 570-443-0832. There are several individuals who have offered to assist those in need.

Would you like to join in the church's Christmas book exchange? You are encouraged to bring along a wrapped book on a Sunday morning and par-

ticipants will be invited to select a book prior to the Christmas Eve services. Any questions, please contact Pastor.

While Pastor will publish Advent devotions, they have also prepared an Advent devotional for the family. The giving manger allows you to focus on Christ and the aspect of giving. The Giving Manger will allow the children to focus on Christ and the aspect of giving. Contact Pastor Kaufman for an Advent devotional kit! Devotions will be posted on the church Facebook page as well!

The congregation would like to help beautify the church on Christmas Eve with lovely poinsettias. This year the color choices are as follows: 6 1/2" potted poinsettia available in red, white and pink. Cost is \$7.25 each. Please

make your check payable to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Please place order form and payment in offering by December 13. You can also call the church office with your order.

All members, friends and family of the congregation are invited to come celebrate the "Hanging of the Greens" service on Sunday, December 13 at 6 p.m. outdoors. This service will give you a sense of what we may be missing throughout the holiday season. We as Americans with our hectic lives get very caught up in working, cooking, baking, shopping, etc. Please come and enjoy this special event and find ways to put Christ back in Christmas.

On Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m., the church will have its socially distanced movie night

featuring Max Lucado's *The Christmas Child*.

Christmas Eve services are currently planned outdoors due to the current Covid numbers. If things change one service may move indoors but as of now they plan to offer three services on December 24 at 5, 7 and 10 p.m. They are still reviewing these decisions. They would like to see the statistics over the next 2 weeks in hopes of offering at least one indoor service. Please let pastor know of your preference. If you feel strongly one way or another, please speak to her directly. If there is a want for an indoor service it will most likely be the 10 p.m. service.

The Food Bank continues to

See Worship, page 45

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 43

distribute food to clients every Friday using safe distance practices. If you would like to drop off donations at the church, please do so on Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations are always welcome, and appreciated.

On Thursdays, Bible Study has resumed in the Parish Hall at 1 p.m. Tables have been set up to allow for participants to social distance.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Janelle Rothrock, Pastor
418 Berwick St., White Haven
570-443-9424

The church is using Zoom so

you will still be able to attend services. It is held on Sundays at 10 a.m.

If you are not able to join with your computer, laptop, iPad, or smartphone, you can always call into the worship service. The number is 1-646-876-9923. Press the # sign after the prompt. The meeting room ID again is 557 531 789 and the password is 470085.

**ST. PAUL'S DRUMS
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 8 a.m.
Todd Glasmire, Pastor
335 W. Butler Drive, Drums
570-788-3051

Pastor Todd and the congregation invite you to worship

with them every Sunday. Fellowship time follows the service.

Their mission is to become a "hub" for making disciples. They do that by worshipping, studying the Word, praying and fellowshiping together. They also try to be as intentional as possible with inviting others to join them in all of those activities.

Adult Sunday School is from 8-9 a.m. Worship service is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Bible Study is Wednesday 6-7 p.m.

12 week study on the book of Daniel (began on September 16) they study one chapter each week. For more information, contact them at www.stpaulsdrums.com or Email: stpaulsdrums@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WHITE HAVEN

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.
Sunday School 11:15 a.m.
Bill Lester, Leader
305 Berwick Street, White Haven
570-443-7293

The congregation invites all to come and worship the Lord. If you are looking for a church home, they welcome you to come and worship with them every Sunday.

Sunday School is provided from September-June to children ages 4-12 during the worship service, after the Children's Moment. It takes place in the lower level of the church. They invite you downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, goodies, and

fellowship after the service.

Al-Anon meets every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. and Fireflies Youth Group meets Fridays from 6-8 p.m. For more info on their group, check them out on Facebook at Fireflies Youth Ministry.

WHITE HAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
3rd Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
David Botzer, Pastor
900 Buffalo St., White Haven
570-443-7153

White Haven UMC welcomes everyone to worship with them. If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Dave at 570-443-7153.

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LISA 715-9335

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LISA 570-715-9335



MOUNTAIN TOP Great floor plan! Building in spring of 2020. Choose your carpet color. 4BR, HW all 1st floor, KIT painted Maple cabinets & quartz ctops. MLS# 20-0390

MATT 714-9229

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MOUNTAIN TOP Sprawling 2sty country home w/hdwd flrs, open rms, frpl, cook's kit. w/6 burner gas cktp, dbl wall oven, isld, bkst rm w/view of patio/pool area. Barn gar, pavillion. New furnace 2020. Tankless HWH. MLS# 20-4326

ANITA 956-3370

\$349,900



MOUNTAIN TOP New construction features 4BR, 2-1/2BA, open flr pln, w/HW flrs in main living area, granite cnttrps, tile baths. Still time to pick your colors & finishes. MLS# 20-4449

EVELYN 262-5956

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