

# the Messenger

November 27, 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



Optional  
Indoors

In accordance with the CDC guidelines, MASKS are now **OPTIONAL**.

To read the Messenger **online**, scan this code with your phone or visit [godslovenewtown.org/connect/newsletters](https://godslovenewtown.org/connect/newsletters). Find all the signups at [godslovenewtown.org/signups](https://godslovenewtown.org/signups).



## THIS Sunday, November 27

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent...**the season of preparation and anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth.

**Advent Devotion booklets** are available on the *Ministry Resource Table*. Help yourself to one per household and use them for daily devotions and meditations throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. **Welcome.**



**THIS Sunday, November 27**  
There will be **NO** Sunday School or Adult Faith & Life classes.

## Saint Nicholas Sunday—NEXT Sunday, December 4

Saint Nicholas himself will be here during worship services for the ingathering of gift donations from our November collection. If you selected a gift tag from the display in the lobby, please bring your gift to worship next week or deliver it to the church office **by December 4.**



There are a few remaining gift tags posted in the lobby. If you cannot get to church and/or prefer to shop online, you can [CLICK HERE](#) and have a gift shipped directly to Family Service.

**Questions?** Contact **Karen Hoch**

## Red Cross Blood Drive

**Tuesday, December 6**  
2pm – 7pm in Fellowship Hall

Our final 2022 blood drive is soon upon us. Please consider donating. Blood remains a critical need for our community.



**Appointments are required** and can be made at the [RED CROSS BLOOD](#). **Questions?** Contact **Beth Meyers**.



Sundays • 10:00am  
Fellowship Hall

## "The Art of Christmas"

- **December 4:** *Santa, Saint Nicholas, and the Nativity* with guest speaker **Jack Pachuta**, religious artist and iconographer
- **December 11:** *Reflections on Painted Religious Masterpieces*
- **December 18:** *The Stories behind Favorite Christmas Carols*



MIDWEEK *Advent* WORSHIP

**Grief: A Spiritual Journey**  
Wednesdays at Noon  
November 30, December 7 and 14  
in the Commons

Grief is our natural human response to death and losses of many kinds. It is an emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual experience, and it can be especially difficult during the holiday season.

This Advent, all are welcome to gather for a mid-week small group meditation on grief. We will accompany one another in discussions of the nature of grief, common symptoms, and healthy strategies for coping.

**Each session is approximately 50 minutes long and all are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and enjoy fellowship immediately following.**

*"Love and grief go hand in hand. Sometimes it is the deep grief we feel during loss that awakens us to the depth and sincerity of our love."* —Richard Rohr

Scripture Readings  
for December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10  
*A ruler bringing  
justice and peace*

Romans 15:4-13  
*Live in harmony, welcoming*

Matthew 3:1-12  
*Prepare the way of the Lord*

## Sunday Volunteers Needed

There are *many opportunities* for adults and youth to serve on Sunday mornings. Not only is this a service to the church and a logistical help to the pastors, but it is also a great way to deepen your worship experience, get involved, and meet new people!

Ways you can  
**SERVE**

There are openings throughout the month of December, including Christmas Eve, for ushers, readers, communion assistants and café baristas.

Go to [GodsLoveNewtown.org/Signups](http://GodsLoveNewtown.org/Signups) or visit the **SignUp Hub** in the Commons to select a week and role to fill.

Need more info on what these roles entail or how to sign up? **Contact the church office.**

## Christmas Worship Schedule

- **Christmas Eve:** Saturday, December 24
  - **4:00pm** Family worship with “impromptu” children’s pageant
  - **6:00pm** Candlelight worship with Rejoice! Praise band
  - **9:00pm** Candlelight worship with choir and organ
  - **Online worship**, entitled “Christmas Eve Lullaby”, will be available all day
- **Christmas Day:** Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am (in person or online), **no** Sunday School classes
- **New Year’s Day:** Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10:00am (in person or online), **no** Sunday School classes



For meaningful and practical information on relevant faith-based topics, visit the Ministry Resource table in the Commons. All resources are available “on-loan.” November’s collection goes hand in hand with the recent Adult Faith and Life series, “Dying Well,” and includes support information and helps as one approaches the end of life and its necessary decisions, including funeral planning. **Welcome!**



The congregation is cordially invited to the Service of Ordination of former member **Maeve Schurz on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, PA.** A brunch reception follows. **RSVPs required by December 1.**



## Grapevine of Friends

Tuesday, December 13 • 2:00pm  
in the Commons

*Christmas Cookies and Coffee*

This event is open to anyone looking for small group fellowship and connection.

**RSVP to Amy Carr or church office by Friday, December 9.** Welcome.

- **Gals’ Book Club** December 1 • 7:00pm  
“The Hotel Nantucket” by Elin Hilderbrand
- **Hanging of the Greens**  
December 18 • 10:00am Join the Sunday school students to decorate the Christmas tree



## Stewardship Update

The congregation continues to respond with generosity to the 2023 stewardship campaign. At least **84 Estimates of Giving** have been received so far. If you have not yet turned yours in, please place it in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office **by December 4.** Extra Estimate of Giving cards are available in the Commons. **Thank you for your generosity.**



## HOPE Laundry

**Ministry** continues every

**Tuesday evening** at the

*Express Laundry Center* in Bristol. We provide detergent, dryer sheets, washer/dryer money and caring conversation to those in need.

[CLICK HERE](#) to help.



Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it is rained down from heaven, at our very doors. —Tryon Edwards



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