



February 2 through February 8, 2025

Beloved,

The hymn “The Summons” stood out to me this week as an option for worship (it’s hymn number 726 in our Glory to God hymnals). I learned it at the New Wilmington Mission Conference in 2009. I see and hear something different each time I play, sing, or listen to the song. The first four verses are God calling out to us, and the fifth is our response. It is a song that has accompanied me through many transitions, and even now I can appreciate new ways that it speaks to me today. Verse four stands out to me now, as I contemplate the love found in 1st Corinthians - “will you love the ‘you’ you hide? Will you quell the fear inside? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in your and you in me?”

In the early summer of 2015, while I was a Young Adult Volunteer in South Korea, I was struggling. I hadn’t learned Hangul (Korean language) well (though I can pronounce it quite well, I cannot process Korean, translate to English, and then answer in English or Korean in a timely manner). I didn’t teach my students in the after school program much English at all, but played games and watched music videos. I had also learned that my dad was suffering with what turned out to be dementia, and I felt guilty for having been away from home for two whole years while my sister attempted to navigate his care.

Living on the campus of Hannam University, there were several bus stops within walking distance that I could choose to catch my bus to teach English in the afterschool program I taught at. I switched depending upon how I felt, and by late spring, I preferred one that picked me up a little earlier in the route. Several weeks in a row, there was a woman who waited at the same time as me. We exchanged a few pleasantries in very broken Korean whenever we saw each other. She could not speak English, I could not speak good Korean. Yet, when she had sweet, warm 고구마 (goguma) (sweet potatoes) with her as a snack, she offered one to me without hesitation. I don’t love 고구마, but in that moment, it was the most wonderful, most delicious thing anyone had offered me. Me, someone who couldn’t even speak the same language, was still given hospitality, kindness, and nourishment, just because.

To fear is to be human - but to love one another, to step out in faith to change the world so that those seeking better opportunities, those seeking bright hope for tomorrow might know that God’s love surpasses all and any boundaries we create in this world. Rather than fear the stranger, may we show love, changing the world one “고구마” at a time, “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:35-27)

May we welcome the stranger among us, diverse as we may be, so that the kingdom of God might be let in and reshape the world around into one of equitable joy and glory found only in the grace, love, and mercy of Christ.

May it be so.

Pastor Kalyn



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 104 in worship on January 26, 2025
- Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, February 16** following worship

Congregational Care

- STORY TIME ON WEDNESDAY, February 5 AT 9:30 OR 10:30
- Super Bowl Open House at Manse on February 9 starting at 6pm. See insert in bulletin for more information
- **SAVE THE DATE: VBS IS GOING TO BE JUNE 9 - JUNE 13!!**

Missions

- Our Mission Focus in February will be Rev. Moseray. He will be joining us on February 2.

Operations

Final 2024 Totals

We spent \$211,242

We collected \$202,110

Per Capita Expenses \$8,840

Per Capita collections \$2,800 (approx. 31%)

The 2025 Per Capita obligation will be \$8,640

This is based on the fact at the end of 2023 we had 191 active members

This year Per Capita amount will be \$45.24 per member

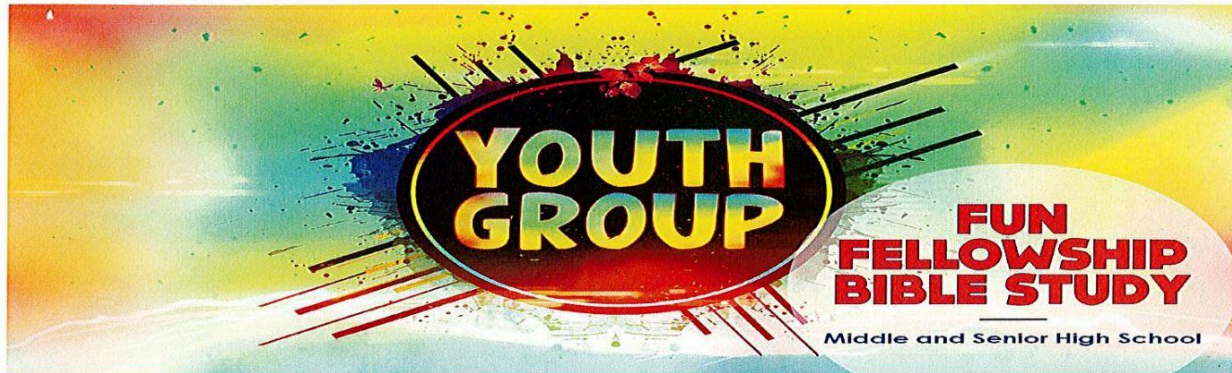
Property Meeting on February 3 at 6:30 pm

The Worship Committee will be meeting to plan future worship events and schedules on Sunday, February 2 after church. We will also set up meeting dates for future Worship Committee meetings in 2025. We plan to meet in the library. Anyone who would like to help with this is welcome to join us for the meeting. If you have any questions, please see Chris Mathias.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the congregation of New Salem Church and their long-timed commissioned Pastor Jeff Marquis following the fire that occurred in the Sanctuary.
- Amanda Collins--A joy that she is continuing her education at Slippery Rock. Had her first week of classes in Music Education
- Diane Gennaro--Prayers for Jack's sister's brother-in-law. He is in hospital in MD with internal bleeding.
- Alli Feszko--Prayers for Bonnie who is not feeling well
- Ginny Adams--Prayers of healing for Linda Duganich who fell at Myrtle Beach in the snow. She broke her wrist/arm. She is home now and scheduled to see orthopedic doctor this week.
- Jen D.--Prayers for Nephew, Corey, who is going back to work in February following his heart transplant surgery in June.
- Shirley Fluharty--Prayers for residents in her building having serious health issues as well as problems with residents.
- Marsha Douglass--Prayers for Mark D., Mike Kamenski and Missy Sardo; all under the weather
- Nancy Hribar--Prayers for Arlene Hribar (mother-in-law) who is healing from surgery. The surgery went well but she is still in hospital
- Nancy Connell--Thank you for all the cards and prayers following my foot surgery and my continuing recovery from pneumonia.





January 6 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

January 13 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

January 20 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

January 27 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

February 2 – SUNDAY Ice Skating at Brady's Run 12:45-2:45 we will leave the church at 12:15. \$10.00 Skate rental \$5.00. Concession Stand will be open

February 10 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

February 24 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

**March 2 – SUNDAY Snow Tubing
12:30 – 2:30 We will leave church at 11:45
Costs \$21.00**



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Ray & Peggy Atwell 2/27	Harper Gavita 2/1	Weston Shaffer 2/12	Trevis Gregory 2/23
	Linda Duganich 2/4	Crystal Saxon 2/13	Brenda Jones 2/24
	Dawn Psik 2/4	Marsha Douglass 2/14	Sharon Neville 2/24
	Eric Rastetter 2/6	Jonah Honess 2/14	Chris Cronin 2/26
	Missy Sardo 2/6	Marloe Rastetter 2/15	Nathan Cronin 2/26
	Dolores Skinner 2/6	Michael Colesar 2/16	Richard Pike 2/26
	Homer Summy 2/6	Diane Gennaro 2/18	Corinna Petrella 2/28
	Noah Repman 2/9	Noah Honess 2/21	
	Ken Gregory 2/11	Tanner Lewis 2/21	

Highlights from the January Session Meeting

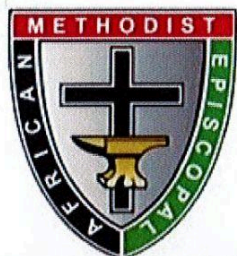
Actions by Session:

- Approved the minutes from the **Congregational Meeting to Elect Deacons and Elders.**
- Scheduled Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders to be at the February 9th worship service.
- Granted approval for Felix Rivera (husband of Pastor Kalyn) to lead a seven-part after church bible study class for the Youth Group.
- Authorized the Deacons to figure out a solution for better streamlining of banking between the Deacons and the Church Treasurer.

Other things:

- A Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for February 16th.
- Three church members are auditing the church finances.
- Magnus Moseray is planned to be the guest speaker for a ",Mission Focus" at Sunday worship on February 2nd.
- Rent will remain the same for the 2025 year for Cares of Western PA.
- Wendi Rybicki and Joe Glatz volunteered to be the Presbytery meeting attendee candidates in 2025.
- The next Stated Session Meeting is on February 11th at 6:30pm and is to start jointly with the Deacons.

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session

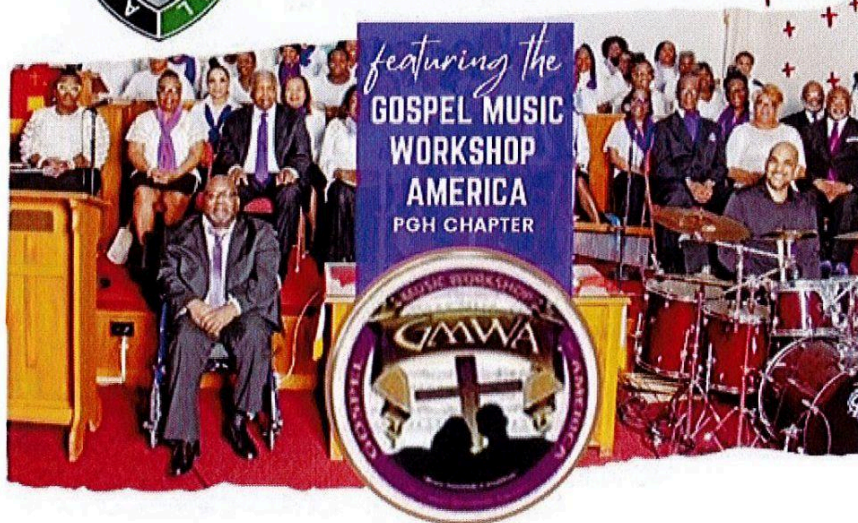


EBENEZER AME CHURCH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MUSICAL

Concert Celebration



1015 Davis St., Aliquippa, PA 15001

FEB

2nd

2025

5 pm

REV. DEBORAH AVERY WIDGET
HOST **PASTOR**