



January 11 through January 17, 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you” (Isaiah 43:2).

I admit, I didn't finish the Steelers/Ravens game this past Sunday, but I was happy when I learned we are headed for the playoffs. Later that day, I saw a player on TV remarking, “Well, the Good Lord was looking down on us last night!” In our mind, our worldview, our theology, maybe he was. (How many recall Big Ben pointing skyward after each touchdown?) We thank God and lift praises when our team wins or good things happen. But what about when things don't go our way? Do we thank God then? Was the Good Lord NOT looking down on the Ravens kicker when he missed the field goal? (Let us be reminded how close we came to losing that game!)

The Steeler player's comments made me think of an editorial after a Steelers win over fifteen years ago. The Steelers won the game thanks to a dropped Buffalo touchdown pass in overtime. In a tweet, the Buffalo player complained to God about dropping the pass, suggesting God made him drop the pass, in spite of the player's 24/7 faithfulness. A few days later, an editorial appeared in the Miami Herald, “Don't blame the ‘Man in the Skybox,’” by Leonard Pitts, Jr., now a nationally syndicated columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner. It's a lively exchange with God about his influence on winners and losers in sports. (I even considered writing a sermon around his remarks.)

Did God make the player drop the ball? Did God knock the ball out of his hands? Did God make the Ravens player miss the kick? Did God make us to lose to a 3-12 Browns team? Where was he when we needed him? How do we handle things when they don't go our way? Do we blame God? Are we frustrated that God didn't keep his end of the bargain? *“I'm faithful to you, God, why aren't you faithful to me?”*

Maybe we can ask God about that 2010 game when we get to heaven. Maybe we can ask him about the disputed end zone call. Maybe we can ask him about all the other bad things that happened to us. But really, I suspect – I know – we will be so busy praising and thanking God for just arriving in heaven, we'll forget what we wanted to ask!

God is faithful, whether we drop the ball or not. God is faithful, even if the Ravens player makes the kick (imagine the news columns then!) God is faithful, even when we lose to the Browns. God is faithful even as we complain or blame him for bringing disasters or bad things our way. We might find ourselves walking through the fire, but God will be with us when we come out.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim



Worship
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday School is at 9am • 82 in church on January 4,2026
Congregational Care
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am • Installation and ordination of Elders and Deacons will be on January 11 • Communion is on January 11
Mission
On Sunday, January 18 there will be a Minute for Mission for one of the local outreach programs our church supports financially. Marie Timpano will be talking about The Cornerstone of Beaver County and its role in addressing homelessness in the community. Just last year the Cornerstone was able to provide emergency housing for over 900 individuals, as well as food, clothes, transportation and employment assistance. The loose offering on the 18th will go to Cornerstone.
Operations

If you are able to help with the snow removal from the sidewalks, please contact Charles Hendrick

The Deacons are requesting donations for our food pantry. Any donations are appreciated but we are running low on health and beauty products – Shampoo, toothpaste, soap and deodorant. Donations can be placed in the bin at the back of the church

We are looking for individuals who are interested in providing special music on the Sundays that the choir doesn’t sing. If interested, sign up on the form outside the choir room

Ohio United Presbyterian Church

PAINT PARTY FUNDRAISER

🌸 Spring Door Hanger Paint Party- Choose Your Project! 🌸

No painting experience needed—just bring your creativity!

All supplies are included. You will leave with a beautiful project that is front door worthy!

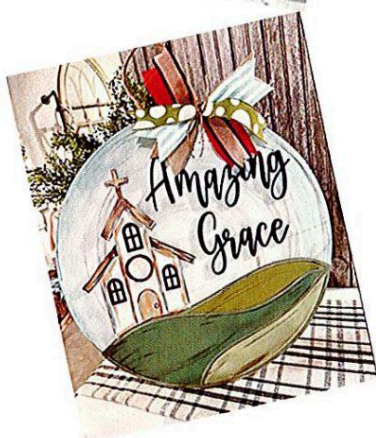


You may choose from one of four projects

🎨 Option 1: Aztec Floral Round Door Hanger

🎨 Option 2: Amazing Grace Round Door Hanger

🎨 Option 3: Hello Easter Round Door Hanger

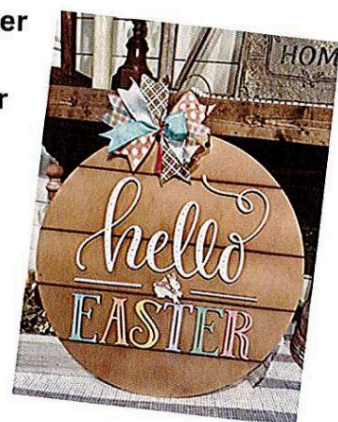


March 14, 2026

1:00-3:30 pm

1236 Longvue Avenue

Aliquippa, PA 15001



\$42.00 per project

Registration deadline is February 20, 2026

Project and Event Notes:

All options are 18" round.

Feel free to bring a snack and or beverage .

Please wear clothing you don't mind getting paint on.

There are no refunds once registration closes,

if you are unable to attend I will be happy to pack your project and supplies "to-go".

For questions regarding payment and registration please contact

amy@wreathandbowsmith.com



SCAN ME



REGISTER NOW



Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Jen Davis—Prayers for her sister, Chrissy, as she finally had her pacemaker put back on Monday after finishing radiation
- Dawn Psik—Her sister Susan met with doctors and had an MRI. They are making plans for going forward
- Dawn had bloodwork done on Tuesday. Some cancer numbers are up. They will repeat testing soon.
- Chris Mathias—His stepmother, Peggy, is not getting better after her stroke. Possibly will move her to assisted living.
- Diane Gennaro—Cheryl, friend from Illinois, passed after two-year battle with ALS. Prayers for family
- Peggy Franzese—Prayers for kids going back to school as many are sick with flu or COVID
- Jeff Davis—Prayers for Pastor Kalyn and family as they locate housing and move.



Bob Keller 01/06	Camden Hoth 01/17	Simon Hunsberger 01/21	Jacob Cagnon 01/23
Eric Nan 1/12	Belinda Notte 01/20	Rich Kerlin 01/22	Megan Hunsberger 01/25
Sara Allen 01/16	Kevin Smith 01/21	David Kocher 01/22	