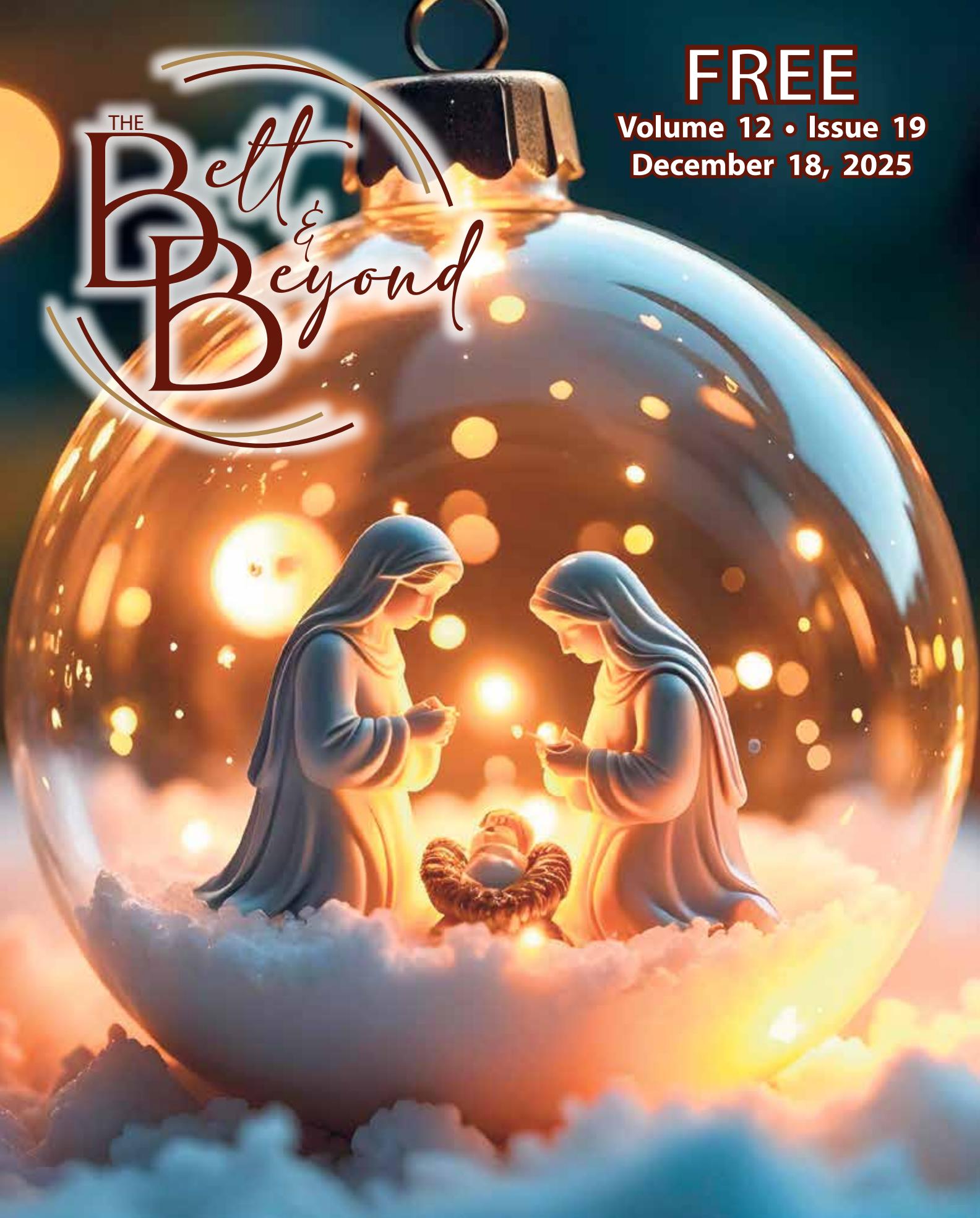


THE
Beth & Beyond

FREE

Volume 12 • Issue 19
December 18, 2025



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Email your news and events to
thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**

Next issue

January 22, 2026

**Deadline for all news and
advertising**

Friday, January 16, 2026.

WEEKEND HAPPENINGS

2	Plainfield Twsp. Vol. Fire Co. End of Year BINGO Bash
3	The Plainfield Township Vol. Fire Co. will host a special End of Year Bingo Bash on Thursday, December 18th . Doors Open 4:00PM -BINGO starts 6:30PM. Plainfield Twsp. Vol Fire Co., 6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA. 18091.
4, 11, 14	
5, 6, 7, 8, 9	
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12, 13	Plainfield Township Vol Fire Co. Breakfast with Santa Claus
15	The Plainfield Township Vol Fire Co. will host their annual Breakfast with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 20th, 8:00AM - 11:00AM at Plainfield Township Vol Fire Co. 6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap. See ad on page 3 for details
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Trinity Lutheran Church Free Clothing Closet

The Trinity Lutheran Free Church Clothing Closet will be open on **Saturday, December 20th from 10:00AM - 12:00PM**. Beginning in January the clothing closet will be open twice per month. **January dates will be the 3rd and 17th 10:00AM - 12:00 PM**. The church is located at 404 Broadway, Bangor, PA.

Ackermanville United Methodist Church Free Meal

Ackermanville United Methodist Church free community Drive-thru meal will be held on **Sunday, December 21st, at 3:00PM**. The church hosts a free monthly community Drive-thru meal every 3rd Sunday of the month. The church is located at 1410 Ackermanville Rd., Ackermanville, PA.

Blue Valley Farm Show Monthly Breakfast

The Blue Valley Farm Show will hold their monthly breakfast on **Sunday, December 21st, 7:00AM-12:30PM** at the Blue Valley Farm Show, 707 American Bangor Road, (RT 512) Bangor. **Santa will be at the breakfast 9:30AM-11:30AM**. Bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Mission of Love Food Pantry. **See ad on page 3 for details**

Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1 Santa Breakfast

Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1 will hold an All You Can Eat Santa Breakfast on **Sunday, December 21st, 7:30AM-11:30AM**, William Pensyl Social Hall, 111 State Street Portland, Pa.

**See Christmas Eve
Church Services page 7**

**COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
7 DAYS**



Zion United Lutheran Church Free Community Christmas Dinner

Zion United Lutheran Church located at 1919 Route 209 in Brodheadsville will be providing a free hot turkey, ham or vegetable lasagna Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Dinner orders need to be placed by **Monday, December 22nd, at 5:00PM** by calling the church office at 570-992-6988 and a time between **1:00PM-3:00PM** will be assigned for **Christmas Day** pick up.

First United Methodist Church (FUMC) Bangor Free Luncheon

The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Bangor will offer a Free sit down luncheon on **Sunday, December 28th, at 12:30PM** (held every 4th Sunday of the month) in the Fellowship Hall. Please enter at the alley entrance off of North 3rd Street, Bangor, PA.

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center First Day Hikes

First Day Hikes - Thursday, January 1, 2026 10:00AM to 11:30AM and 1:00PM-2:30PM.

Women in the Wild - First Day Hike - Thursday, January 1, 2026 1:00PM-2:30PM Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2026! Join us for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg. We will explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. The hike will start and end at the visitor center, 400 Belfast Road. *Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Registration is required.

<https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/search/eventsorder=date&search=jacobsburg.org>

See more Jacobsburg community events page 11

Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1 New Year's Day Bingo

The Portland Hook & Ladder Vol. Fire Co will host a New Year's Day Bingo on **Wednesday, January 1, 2026** at the William Pensyl Social Hall, 111 State Street, Portland, PA.

See ad on page 10 for details

EBUMCC Free Dinner

The East Bangor UMC Church welcomes you to a FREE Dinner on **Sunday, January 4, 2026 from 4:00PM to 4:30PM**. This is TAKE-OUT only at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA www.ebumc.org

Blue Valley Farm Show Monthly Breakfast

The Blue Valley Farm Show will hold their monthly breakfast on **Sunday, January 18, 2026 7:00AM-12:30PM** at the Blue Valley Farm Show, 707 American Bangor Road, (RT 512) Between Bangor & Pen Argyl.

Washington Township Vol. Fire Co. Meat & Moolah Bingo

The Washington Township Vol. Fire Co. will hold a Meat & Moolah Bingo on **Saturday, January 24, 2026 doors open 4:30PM, Bingo begins at 6:00PM. Snow date Sunday, January 25, 2026**. Washington Twsp. Vol. Fire Co., 920 Washington Blvd, Ba gor, Pa. 18013. Tickets call Hunter 484-788-9029 or Logan 610-973-4902

See ad on page 10 for details

St Peter's Lutheran Church Scholarship Oldies Dance

St Peter's Lutheran Church will hold their annual Scholarship Oldies Dance on **Saturday, February, 7, 2026, 6:00PM -10:00PM** at the Blue Valley Farm Show, 707 American Bangor Road, Bangor, Pa. For tickets/information call 610-588-2101. See ad on page 10 for details

Upcoming Events continued on page 5

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP VOL. FIRE CO.

6480 SULLIVAN TRAIL, WIND GAP, PA 18091

Breakfast with Santa Claus

Saturday, December 20 8:00AM - 11:00AM

Join us for a morning of fun with Santa Claus! Enjoy a delicious breakfast, take a picture with Santa and let the kids do some fun activities! Santa Claus will be visiting until 11:00am.

Breakfast includes: Scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, toast, juice and coffee.

Price: \$6 for children 5-12 yrs

\$12 for adults/children 13yrs and up

Children 0-4 years Free

Annual Santa Claus Toy Run same day (Plainfield Township residents only) starting at 12:00pm! If you are interested in having Santa Claus stop by your home to visit your child, please bring a wrapped gift with your child's name on it and a \$10.00 donation (per house) to the firehouse any Monday evening between 7pm and 9pm or call the firehouse at 610-863-7383 to setup a drop off. All gifts must be dropped off prior to December 19th. Santa Toy Run form will be posted in the discussions tab.

BLUE VALLEY FARM SHOW

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Sunday, December 21, 2025

7:30am-12:30pm

Adults \$15 Children 6-12 \$7 UNDER 6 FREE

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BINGO April 11 • 5:00 pm

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Guns - purses - cash & more!

2026 Memberships & Renewals

Monday nights starting 1/5/26, 6-8 pm and during public events.

Indoor Archery-Thursdays

Starts January 8, doors open at 6:30, starts 7 pm. Runs 12 weeks. \$10/night. Pay \$100 first night get 2 weeks free. Open to the public!

Advance tickets available starting January 5. Mondays 6-8 pm, at block shoots or by Venmo:

Keystone_Rod_GunClub

PUBLIC WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFO GO TO KRGCLUB.COM & FB

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

No Bingo on December 25th & January 1st

See you at our next Bingo on Thursday, January 8, 2026



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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church Ribbon Cutting

On Saturday, December 12th, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony and Blessing of the new elevator. The church is located at 560 N. 6th Street, Bangor, PA.



Father Kravatz cuts the ribbon and blessed the new elevator at OLMC. Joe Diorio (left holding the ribbon). Steve Saveri (right holding the ribbon).

Deacon Frank Elchert - beside Father Kravatz while blessing the elevator



Debbie Pettinari, Agent
106 S Broadway
Wind Gap, PA 18091
debbie.pettinari.wz73@statefarm.com

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&
Happy New Year*

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Bangor Elks Lodge #1106 Presents Annual Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest

The annual Elk's Hoop Shoot Free Throw contest will be held on **January 10, 2026**. Registration begins at **8:00AM** at Washington Township Elementary School, 381 Washington Blvd., Bangor, Pa. 18013

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw program for youth ages 8-13 years of age.

Slate Belt Heritage Center & Museum Seeks 2026 Preservation Award Nominees

The Slate Belt Heritage Center & Museum is seeking nominations for its' 2026 Preservation Awards. Categories are as follows:

Initiative Award goes to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in promoting and preserving the history and culture of the Slate Belt or any Slate Belt municipality through "In-Kind" actions (acts where they receive no compensation/payment).

Architectural Award goes to an individual who is saving or conserving a historic building, place or artifact, within the Slate Belt, where restoration is 90 % authentic to original state of construction.

Special Focus Award goes to an individual who is saving or conserving a tradition or a body of knowledge and may be contributing to educational information via exhibits, documentation, internet, archival, etc. concerning the Slate Belt.

Applications are available at the Center located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA 18013 or by just sending in the information to the Center. Applicants may also contact: Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661 for additional information.


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December 20, 8:00AM - 3:00PM
Pocono Organics –
Holiday Christmas Village
 Pocono Organics, 1015 Long Pond Rd, Blakeslee, PA,

December 21, 12:00PM - 5:00PM
Holiday Pop Up Event
Wind Creek Outlets,
Wind Creek Casino
 77 Wind Creek Blvd, Bethlehem, PA

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
 Follow me to stay up to date on 2026 events!
 Booboobalmheal.com (570) 730-2977
Booboobalmheal@gmail.com
 220 Interchange Road, Kresgeville, PA. Proprietor: Rebecca Drake 

The Quiet Power of Advent

By Kathleen McFall

The familiar sights of Christmas are here - decorations on Christmas trees, evergreen wreaths, carols playing in stores and churches, and neighborhoods brightened with holiday lights.

Christmas is a season rich with warmth and tradition: family gatherings, candlelit services, the comfort of old hymns sung year after year.

Many of us feel a quiet pull toward something deeper. We embrace Christmas with a mixture of anticipation and reflection.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the fulfillment of the promise of the long-awaited Messiah who entered the world in humility and love.

In the Bible, Luke 2:11, an angel announced to shepherds: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

For Christians, Christmas is a time of unmistakable joy, wonder and divine love. It is the astonishing moment when God stepped into the world in the small town of Bethlehem as a child, vulnerable and yet victorious. His arrival changed the world.

From His birth, Jesus' significance was universal. Matthew 2:1-2, describes the arrival of Magi (wise men) from the East, who saw a star and traveled to Jerusalem saying: "Where is He who has been born? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."

Yet, woven into the fabric of Christian tradition is another season that often goes unnoticed: Advent, meaning "coming" or "arrival". It invites us into a period of attentive waiting.

Although Advent is coming to a close, it is important to reflect on these 4 weeks leading up to Christmas and how Advent can affect our lives long after the last ornament is put away.

Advent is one of the most cherished and meaningful seasons in the Christian calendar. It is a quiet, reverent invitation to pause and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ through four powerful themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Advent reminds us what truly matters: that the Nativity story did not appear out of nowhere; it unfolded slowly, with signs, promises, and people who learned to trust God.

The quiet season of waiting deepens the glory of Christmas, acknowledging our own present-day longing for God's presence, peace, and redemption.

Advent helps us enter Christmas not as a holiday but as a celebration of Christ's birth. It is a time of waiting and readying ourselves as we honor the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

The four candles of Advent, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, guide us on this journey. They are not simply symbols or rituals. They are timeless and can live in us regardless of the time of year. These four Advent themes continue to shape our lives today.

Each week brings its own message, gently leading us toward the manger where Jesus first entered our world. They are reminders of what God offers us. He invites us to share with one another.

Hope, the first candle of Advent, is where the Christmas story begins. The birth of our Savior, the One who would bring healing to the broken and salvation to the world. Their hope was not passive; it was a trust that God would remain faithful to His promises.

In our own lives, we experience seasons of waiting too. We wait for healing, for direction, for reconciliation, for clarity, for strength to face the challenges before us. Advent reminds us that God works in the waiting.

The birth of Jesus is proof that God's promises do not fade. They arrive—sometimes quietly, sometimes unexpectedly—but always with purpose.

Hope prepares our hearts for Christmas by lifting us up from what troubles us toward what God can do. It reminds us that the light of Christ can change lives, and bring comfort and fulfillment.

In the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. It is the peace Jesus Himself brings. The peace the angels proclaimed when they filled the night sky over Bethlehem and announced in Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

We all long for peace and calm in our lives. Our schedules fill quickly. Expectations rise. Family gatherings can, at times, feel overwhelming. Advent invites us to let Christ, the Prince of Peace, steady our hearts and meet us in our restlessness and calm our worries.

Peace also calls us to look at the people around us with compassion. Sometimes the most meaningful gift we can offer is a softened heart, a listening ear, or a word of forgiveness. When we choose peace, we prepare room in our hearts for the One who

came gently into our world, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

The third week of Advent we light the candle of Joy, reflecting a spirit of celebration. Advent joy is deeper. It is the joy we feel when God's presence breaks through the ordinary moments of life.

This joy often arrives unexpectedly. It might appear in laughter shared around a dinner table, in children who believe in the magic of Christmas, or in the quiet contentment of sitting beside a loved one.

It can rise up in seasons of difficulty, reminding us that God walks with us and that His goodness is never far away.

Advent joy prepares us for Christmas by opening our hearts to gratitude. It reminds us that even in an imperfect world, God sends blessings and fills our lives with reasons to rejoice.

The final candle of Advent is Love, the heart of Christmas. It is the love that brought Christ from heaven to earth and continues to transform our lives.

Every cherished Christmas memory we hold whether it is times with family, presents chosen with care, traditions passed from one generation to the next, finds its meaning in love.

God's love is enduring. It is the love that forgives us and restores us. It calls us to love one another in the same way.

Christmas is the story of God drawing near to humanity not with judgment, but with tenderness, not with fanfare, but with the cry of a newborn King.

This love invites us to look beyond ourselves and to reach out to those who are grieving, or overwhelmed. It calls us to remember those who may not have a place to gather or someone to celebrate with.

When we love others generously, we echo the love God has shown us through Jesus.

When the four candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love burn together, their combined glow becomes a gentle, steady reminder of what Christmas truly is.

In a world filled with hurry, noise, and distraction, Advent brings us back to the foundations of our faith and invites us to experience the beauty of preparing our hearts for Christ.

We need to abandon the chaos of the world, to reflect and remember the spiritual meaning of the holiday.

Christ's presence restores and guides our lives. Advent connects the past, the present, and the future through the faithfulness of God. We are never alone. In Jesus, God didn't just visit, He stayed. Jesus is called Immanuel, "God with us."

Advent doesn't diminish Christmas. It deepens it, making the joy of Christmas shine even more brightly. Advent strengthens Christmas by cultivating a deeper understanding of what Christ's birth truly meant: that God has never abandoned us.

We arrive at Christmas more grateful, more aware, and more open to the miracle of God's love. For in celebrating Advent, we make room for Christmas to transform us.

This year, perhaps the most meaningful gift we can give ourselves is the willingness to listen and let the Christmas story unfold as it was always meant to from expectation to wonder and rejoicing.

The birth of Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever received. Advent helps us unwrap that gift slowly, week by week, preparing our hearts to welcome Christ with sincerity, gratitude, and renewed faith.

Advent invites us to slow down and soften our spirit because Christmas is coming, and with it comes the light of Christ, "... the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Advent is deeply spiritual and its themes are universal. They touch our families, our friendships, our daily decisions. They help us prepare for the coming of Jesus in a meaningful way.

Advent helps us resist the rush and noise of the season so that when Christmas morning arrives, we are not simply ready with wrapped gifts and decorated homes. We are ready in spirit. Advent leads us to the manger.

As you experience this season lighting candles, gathering with loved ones, sharing meals, giving gifts, singing hymns, or simply pausing for a quiet moment, may the spirit of Advent remain with you and lead you closer to the One whose birth brings hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, joy to the waiting, and love to the world.

May the light of Christ shine in your heart this Christmas and guide you gently into the new year.

Have a blessed, joyful Christmas!

Grace Church, Pen Argyl

404 E Mountain Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Candlelit Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025
3:00 PM
Family Service

7:00 PM
Traditional Service



Christmas Eve
gathering
5pm

Hopesprings Community of Faith
301 Market Street, Bangor PA 18013

East Bangor United Methodist Community Church

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Come enjoy a service of carols & candlelighting

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WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
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3:00PM AND 6:00PM

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Join us as we prepare for the Christmas season
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sunday, December 21, 3:00PM
Lessons and Carols

This service will weave together Scripture readings that tell the story of Salvation from Genesis to the birth of Jesus. Carols & hymns. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve
Wednesday December 24, 2025
4:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Good Counsel
Midnight Mass - Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Christmas Day, December 25, 2025
8:00AM Mass & 10:00AM Mass
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
560 N. 6th St., Bangor, PA 18013

Our Lady of Good Counsel
436 S. 2nd St., Bangor, Pa. 18013

"Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us."

~David Cameron



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Wed. Dec. 31, 2025

- PRE-PARTY - 4 PM
- HAPPY HOUR (4-6 pm)
- WING NIGHT (4-8 pm)
- LINE DANCING - 7:30 PM
with DJ TRAPPER JOSH
LESSONS at 7:30 pm
- FESTIVE NYE COUNTDOWN - 10 PM
with DJ TRAPPER JOSH - mixed genres
LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES
MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST
- AFTER PARTY - 12 AM
with DJ TRAPPER JOSH
- EXTENDED HOURS 'til 2 AM !

\$30 ADVANCE PURCHASE (\$40 at the door)
\$15 LINE DANCING ONLY • \$25 PARTY ONLY

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Sophie and the staff at MT Bethel Diner
Closed Christmas

Open New Year's Day
NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIAL

PORK & SAUERKRAUT - w/mashed potatoes.
includes soup or salad, and dessert.

\$20.00

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.
920 Washington Blvd., Bangor, PA. 18013

Meat & Moolah Bingo
Saturday, January, 24, 2026

Snow Date Sunday, January 25, 2026 Check our Facebook page for updates!!!

Tickets \$25 in Advance - \$30 at the Door

Doors open at 4:30 PM - Games begin at 6:00 PM

Kitchen & Bar Open NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE PERMITTED

For tickets call Hunter 484-788-9029 or Logan 610-973-4902

B I N G O

Tickets sponsored by:
Kneebone & Sons Farm and Butcher Shop, Bangor, PA.

Annual Comedy Show Saturday, February 14 For tickets call 610-588-2113
Tickets available beginning January, 5, 2026 • Tickets \$45

St Peter's Scholarship Oldies Dance
Saturday, February 7, 2026 6:00-10:00 PM

Doors open 5:00pm - Dinner & Dancing 6:00pm-10:00pm

\$28 per person

BLUE VALLEY FARM SHOW
707 American Bangor Rd., Bangor PA.

Ticket includes: Pasta Dinner, chips/pretzels, coffee, tea, and soda. - BYOB

♥ DJ Frank Zito ♥

For tickets/Information call 610-588-2101 Checks payable to St. Peter's Scholarship. Mail to Jackie Brinker, 285 American Road, Bangor, PA 18013

*Help support our local food pantries, please donate non-perishable food items

Event sponsored by Thrivent Financial

New Year's Day Bingo
January 1, 2026
2:00pm

Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1
William Pensyl Social Hall
111 State Street, Portland, PA

New Year's Day guaranteed minimum payout of \$6,700
1st and 2nd Specials \$400
3rd Special JACKPOT COVERALL \$1500
4th Special \$400
5th Special JACKPOT COVERALL \$2000
ALL regular games payout at \$100 each *** Total of 25 games
We do not sell advanced tickets to this special bingo event.

Doors open at 10:00am
Ticket Office Opens at 12:00pm
Bingo begins at 2:00pm
Kitchen open for lunch and snacks.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to preview the full schedule.

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Community January 2026 Community Programs

First Day Hike - Thursday, January 1, 2026 10am to 11:30am & 2:30am. Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2026! Join us for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg. We will explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. The hike will start and end at the visitor center at 400 Belfast Road. Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Registration is required.

Women in the Wild - First Day Hike - Thursday, January 1, 2026 1pm to 2:30pm. Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2026! Join fellow women hikers for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg. We will explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. The hike will start and end at the visitor center at 400 Belfast Road. Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Registration is required. Women in the Wild is a monthly series of outdoor programs held at state parks throughout the Southeast. Each month of 2026 there will be an opportunity to get outdoors, learn a new skill, and have fun in a relaxed, friendly, and affirming environment. Are you drawn to the outdoors and interested in exploring new hobbies and wilderness skills? This series is designed especially for you! Choose from activities like archery, paddleboarding, rock climbing, and birdwatching. Check out the event at your closest state park or follow Women in the Wild to a new park each month. We're excited to spend the year with you trying new things!

Winter Wonders Series - Monday, January 5th, 12th, 26th, and February 2, 2026 10am to 11am. Join the team at Jacobsburg as we explore winter wonders! Each session will have a new seasonal theme and craft. This program is suited for children aged 3+. Homeschool students welcome! All children must be accompanied by an adult. There are four total sessions, you may register for some or all, however, each session must be registered for individually. *There will be NO session on 1/19/26*.

Family Science Night - Tracking Workshop - Friday, January 16, 2026 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Winter is a good time to observe animals and study their tracks. Learn how animals walk and how to identify them based on their foot shape. We'll spend the evening inside getting messy by making plaster casts. This event is best for children ages 3 and up and is a great introduction to tracking ahead of Saturday's outdoor Mammal Mysteries program. Registration is required.

Mammal Mysteries - Saturday, January 17, 2026 10am to 11:30am. Ever wonder what animals are up to in winter? Do you like solving mysteries? Join the team at Jacobsburg as we search for animal tracks to figure out what our local animals are doing on the property! This program is best suited for families with children aged 6 and up. Walking outdoors in all weather, moderate hills and varying conditions due to recent weather. Please dress to be outside, wear boots, and bring a water and snack. Registration is required.

Winter Tree I.D. - Saturday, January 17, 2026 1pm to 3pm. No leaves? No problem! Learn how to identify woody plants in a winter landscape. This program is best suited for adults. Terrain is moderate hills with varying conditions due to recent weather. Please dress appropriately to be outside for the duration of this program. Registration is required.

Snowshoes and Hiking Poles Available - Monday thru Friday, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM. Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth. Borrow snowshoe equipment to use on Jacobsburg's trails this winter! Snowshoes are available for folks of any age or shoe size, including small children. Snowshoes will not be made available during times of insufficient snow cover, at least six inches of snow is required. To borrow equipment, you must provide a driver's license or other form of state issued identification. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. You can check our website for current winter conditions and snow depth: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/WinterReport/Pages/default.aspx>

You can view and register for community programs online at <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/search/events?order=date&search=jacobsburg>. If you need an accommodation to participate in a program, please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. Interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs with at least seven days notice.

Answers on page 14

CHRISTMAS Trivia Quiz

Circle your trivia guess and receive 1 point for each correct answer

- Which country started the tradition of putting up the Christmas Tree?
A. Norway B. Germany C. Canada D. Sweden
- In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what brings Frosty to life?
A. A Scarf B. A Carrot Nose C. A Hat D. A Magic Broomstick
- Which U.S. state was the 1st to officially recognize Christmas as a holiday?
A. New York B. Alabama C. Virginia D. Massachusetts
- What Christmas decoration was originally made from strands of silver?
A. Lights B. Garland C. Ornaments D. Tinsel
- What fruit is traditionally placed in Christmas stockings?
A. Apple B. Orange C. Pear D. Plum
- What popular Christmas beverage is also known as "milk punch"?
A. Hot Chocolate B. Apple Cider C. Eggnog D. Peppermint Mocha
- What country is the largest producer of poinsettias for Christmas?
A. Mexico B. Canada C. Spain D. United States
- What was the first company to use Santa Claus in an advertisement?
A. Pepsi B. Coca-Cola C. Hershey's D. Hallmark
- Which popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?
A. "Jingle Bells" B. "Deck the Halls" C. "Silent Night" D. "Frosty the Snowman"
- In the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" what's the gift on the 7th day?
A. Ladies dancing B. Pipers piping C. Swans a-swimming D. Lords a-leaping

Area Food Pantries

Bethel Bible Church Food Pantry

Every Saturday 9:30AM - 11:00AM. 7742 N. Delaware Drive, (Rt 611), Martins Creek PA. FMI call (908) 483-8231.

Portland Upper Mt Bethel Food Bank P.U.M.P.

The Portland Upper Mt Bethel Food Pantry P.U.M.P. is open **Mondays 8:30AM to 11:30AM**. P.U.M.P. is located at 111 State Street in Portland. The phone number is 570-897-5847.

Mission of Love Food Bank

Every Tuesday 7:30AM to 11:00AM, 555 North Main Street, Bangor, PA. Questions contact Pastor Frank Pons (570) 807-7794.

Helping Hands Food Pantry at Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Drive Thru Pick Up parking lot opens at 4:30 PM. 915 North 5th Street, Stroudsburg, PA. For more information contact the church 570-421-0750

St. Elizabeth/St. Joseph Food Ministry

Corner of Genoga St. and Rte. 512, Wind Gap. The **second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9:00AM-10:00AM**. Contact Katherine Kerler for more information: 610-863-7542.

John Wesley Covenant Church

19 West Street in Wind Gap. The church offers free meals to the community **every third Thursday of the month**.

All Aspects at the Barn Santa's Christmas Market & 5th Annual Holiday Festival*Photos by Lisa Barthelmeus*

All Aspects at the Barn held their Santa's Christmas Market & 5th Annual Holiday Festival on Saturday, December 6th. Attendees were able to shop inside at All Aspects at the Barn, as well as outside at the various vendors and artisans at the market. Delicious food from food trucks, live music, a petting zoo, photos with Santa, and much more was enjoyed by all. All Aspects at the Barn is located at 1584 S. Delaware Dr. in Mount Bethel, Pa.

[See more photos on our Facebook page](#)

**Lower Mount Bethel Township Christmas Tree Lighting***Photos by Lisa Barthelmeus*

Lower Mount Bethel Township held their annual Christmas tree lighting on Saturday, December 7th. The event was hosted by the LMBT Recreation Board and LMBT Sandt's Eddy Fire Company. [See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



East Bangor United Methodist Community Church One Starry Night

Photos by Lisa Barthelmeus

East Bangor United Methodist Community Church presented "One Starry Night" on December 13th & 14th. The family friendly event was an amazing Christmas experience, a visit to Bethlehem to experience what life was like when Jesus was born.

[See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



Bangor Area High School Winter Choir and Band Concerts

Photos by Lisa Barthelmeus

The winter choir and band concerts were held on December 9th and 11th at Bangor High School.

[See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction - The Heir Apparent by Rebecca Armitage; Everybody Wants to rule the World: A Novel by Ace Atkins; Stuart Woods' Blown Away by Brett Battles; The Last Witch by C. J. Cooke; Innocence Road by Laura Griffin; There's Always Next Year by George M. Johnson; Sweet Venom by Rina Kent; The Lost Baker of Vienna by Sharon Kutzman; The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe: A True Crime Thriller by James Patterson/ Imogen Edwards Jones; The Dark is Descending by Chloe C. Pendaranda; The Missing Pages: A Novel by Alyson Richman; Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlesser; Bad Bishop by L. J. Shen; The War Nurse: A Novel by Tracey Enerson Wood.



Easy Fiction - Snowy: A Christmas Tale: Ocean Tales Children's Books by Sarah Cullen; Llama Llama: A Gift for Mama by Anna Dewdney; The Littlest Yak by Lu Fraser; The Little Snowplow by Lora Koehler; Firefly: An Uplifting and Lyrical Story of Light, Hope, and Wonder by Robert MacFarlane; Thanksgiving Friends by Tammi Salzano.

Easy Reader Non Fiction - The Sky is Full of Stars by Franklyn M. Branley.

Junior Fiction - The All-American Adventure by James Patterson; The Plunder Down Under by James Patterson.

Junior Non Fiction - A Day in the Life of your Body: Find Out What's Going on Under Your Skin.

Young Adult Fiction - Crowntide by Alex Astar; Better in Black: Ten Stories of Shadowhunter Romance by Cassandra Clare; The Rebel and the Rose by Catherine Doyle; Hazelthorn by C. G. Drews; Seven Deadly Thorns by Amber Hamilton; Moth Dark by Kika Hatzopoulou; The Scammer by Tiffany D. Jackson.

DVDs - The King of Kings: A Story Told by Charles Dickens.

The Bangor Public Library is located at 39 S. Main Street, Bangor, PA. The phone number is 610-588 4136. **Hours: Mon., 1-8pm; Tues., 10am-8pm; Wed., 1-8pm; Thurs., 10am-8pm; Fri., 1-5pm; Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun. Closed.**

The First Christmas by Robert L. Martin

The first Christmas for the lowly king,
born in a manger as the heavens sing,
among the poor but of the highest status,
was our servant king, so powerful, so glorious.

A little child born among the animals
in a simple barn but of the grandest spectacles
in front of the wisest and most holy men
who stood in awe at the child so eminent,
the future king who instilled a new spirit
in mankind was born.

Blue Mountain Community Library News

In addition to its annual Christmas tree Ornament fundraiser and ongoing book sale in its second floor Book Nook, with gently used books and puzzles for all ages, the Blue Mountain Community Library invites the community to stop by during open hours to purchase items from a special "Last Chance Books" table on its first floor. Items are available for a monetary donation of any size.

The library also has Pen Argyl yearbooks in its collection and for sale. Anyone wishing to purchase a yearbook from a particular year is encouraged to call the library in advance (610-863-3029).

Library membership is free for residents of Pen Argyl, Wind Gap, and Plainfield Township and \$12 annually for non-residents. Please see www.bmcl.org for more information.

The Blue Mountain Community Library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. **Hours are 10-12, Monday through Saturday mornings and 6-8, Monday and Thursday evenings.** All information is available on our Facebook page and website [@www.bmcl.org](http://www.bmcl.org).



CHRISTMAS Trivia Answers

1. B. Germany
2. C. A Hat
3. B. Alabama
4. D. Tinsel
5. B. Orange
6. C. Eggnog
7. D. United States
8. B. Coca-Cola
9. A. "Jingle Bells"
10. C. Swans a-swimming



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**Look for our next issue on
January 22, 2026**

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