

Gbg Church of the Brethren  
January 2025



WISHING YOU A  
*Happy New Year*

*For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.     Jeremiah 29:11*

## **New Year / New Beginnings**

Instead of making "new year's resolutions" this year, Try sitting down with God in a peaceful quiet moment and ask, "How can I grow more in love with you this year?"

A good way to start is by setting goals to prioritize your relationship with God.

### **Meet with God daily and make Him a priority.**

Do you have a plan, maybe first thing in the morning, to meet with God before anyone else? It's one way of prioritizing. Him above anything and anyone. It's also a good way to start your day before any other outside influences can wreak havoc on you.

### **Get into God's Word every day to get closer to Him.**

If you've owned a Bible for years but have never read the entire book, this is a great time to start. There are many good resources available to help you read through the Bible in a year. Or, ask yourself where you want to be in your relationship with the Lord by the end of the year and then set goals for getting there through study. For instance, if you want to know God better, consider a study of his names in the Old Testament and Jesus' "I am" statements in the New Testament. Do not try and rush through this just to say you did it. Sometimes we have to slow down and learn to listen for his voice; in this case, read what the Bible says about "rest" or "hearing" or His "voice."

### **Participate in a weekly small-group Bible study.**

It is good to study the Bible with a partner or two. Sometimes it helps us grow at a faster rate in our understanding because we are able to share our experiences with one another and hold each other accountable.

To walk with God during the day every day means being right with him. Our fellowship with God is interrupted when we fall short of His Expectations and sin by allowing our earthly desires to control us.

Make some of these action points priority in your life this next year and hopefully, by the end of next December, you'll be not only another year older but another year older in your faith and a closer walk with Christ.

Happy New Year!

God Bless,

*Pastor Stephen*



## A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you;  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people  
and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
GOD'S LOVE, PEACE, HOPE and JOY  
To you for the year ahead.



Instead of making a New Year's resolution,  
consider committing to a biblical solution.  
Your promises are easily broken...empty  
words, though earnestly spoken.  
But God's Word transforms the soul,  
by His Holy Spirit making you whole.  
As you spend time alone with Him,  
He will change you from within.

## What's Going On

at GBGCOB?

A celebration of Jill Albright's retirement from Greensburg Church of the Brethren will take place during the worship service on **January 12th**, followed by a luncheon in her honor.

The 2025 calendars and the Daily Bread copies for December - February are available now on the table under the mailboxes.



Disciples' Hands will once again be having a soup sale on **Saturday, January 25th from 9 a.m. - noon**. Please plan to support this event which, in turn, supports the various ministries undertaken by Disciples' Hands throughout the year.

## Women's Fellowship

We were so blessed on that blistery cold December night that 22 women came and enjoyed our Christmas gathering at Applebee's.

A special thank you to Lynn Grimme for making the reservations and for Judy Walker and Lynn giving us the candy cane story bookmark and candy canes. The gift exchange was fun, and the shared love and laughter kept us warm.

Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias in honor or memory of those we love. It is hoped that, as you enjoy them through the new year, special memories will remain in your hearts as you think of those you honored or gave in memory to. Our poinsettia tree looked beautiful and added to the beauty of our sanctuary.

May the Lord bless you with peace, contentment, and joy all through the coming year. Our next gathering is on **Wednesday, January 8 at noon** at King's Restaurant. All women are welcome!

II Corinthians 9:8





Dear Greensburg Church of the Brethren,  
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,220.94 to the Hurricane Helene Relief Fund at Trinity on the Hill. Your donation will allow our church to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus as we serve our community to help it recover from the hurricane. We are honored to help families and individuals repair roofs and electricity, and we are so glad you can be a part of that with us!

Blessings,  
Trinity on the Hill

Pastor Stephen and your congregation--

I want to personally thank you for all your support of the activities we offer to our community.

Sincerely,  
Patty Graff

Merry Christmas!

The Southwest Greensburg Civic Society wishes the Church of the Brethren a Christmas filled with an abundance of peace, love, and joy.

2024 was filled with many Civic Society endeavors and we are so ever grateful to the church for permitting us the use of the community room to host many of our events.

Your kindness means everything to us and to the residents of Southwest Greensburg Borough. You continue to let your light shine in our neighborhood. Thank ou for helping us make 2024 memorable for our residents.

Kindest regards,  
Southwest Greensburg Civic Society

Dear Greensburg Church of the Brethren,

As 2024 comes to a close and we look back over all that has happened and all that we are thankful for, we want to take the time to say a very sincere "THANK YOU" to you! Thank you for participating in our Change for Life Program, which is so simple and yet so powerful. As a first-time donor, we appreciate your support of life and LIFE CHOICES! God is working in and through LIFE CHOICES, and we are so thankful that you have come alongside us to help us see our vision of "every life valued" fulfilled.

God bless you!  
Joey Vegerano  
LIFE CHOICES Executive Director

## Honored Member of the Month - Jill Albright

This month, we are highlighting Jill Albright, who has served for the past 13+ years as our church secretary. Jill began with us in 2011 and has served us capably in that capacity. She decided that she wanted to retire to spend more time with her family and to be able to do some traveling while she is able to do so.

Jill is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Greensburg and serves as the Financial Secretary there. She also has been a church secretary at a number of other churches over the years before she came to us. She has also served as a math tutor at the Westmoreland Community College for the past 25 years.

Her hobbies include traveling, reading, watching good movies, and spending time with her family. She has a daughter Danielle who lives with her husband and three children in Greenwalt, right nearby. Her son Colin is a firefighter and lives with his wife in Portland, Oregon.

Some of Jill's favorite Bible verses include the 23rd Psalm and Romans 7:15-19 where Paul talks about doing the things he ought not to do, and not doing the things he should. This gives her encouragement not to feel like a failure. Some special hymns include "This is My Father's World," "In the Garden," and "Precious Lord."

Jill described her experience of working at COB as being very fulfilling. She always had a good feeling here. The people have been very kind and supportive, and being here was spiritually uplifting for her. She always prayed that she would do her best for the church, and ultimately for God. We would concur that she has done just that!

Jill will be missed in the office. We thank her for taking the time to train our new secretary, Ruth Fox, over the past few months. There will be time in our January 12th service to honor Jill. Following the service that day, we will hold a luncheon in her honor. Please plan to attend and thank Jill personally.



## Celebrating the Life of Ray Ghrist

Raymond David Ghrist, 95, of Greensburg, died Thursday, December 19, 2024, in Caring Heights Community Care & Rehabilitation Center, Coraopolis, PA. He was born August 21, 1929, in Greensburg, a son of the late George Edward Ghrist and Ethel H. Watson Ghrist. Ray was drafted immediately upon high school graduation into the US Army and sent to Korea where he attained the rank of Corporal. He was wounded while performing guard/reconnaissance duties and awarded the military's highest honor, The Purple Heart. He was a member of Greensburg Church of the Brethren and proud to serve as church deacon for many years. Anyone who knew Ray knew that he loved to sing, especially Christian and country music, singing bass in the church choir and men's quartet. He worked for over 30 years for the US Postal Service, retiring in 1986, as the Postmaster of Apollo, PA. Ray was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Lorian Roehrig Ghrist; an infant son and his son, Keith R. Ghrist; and his sister, Dorothy Cunkleman. Ray is survived by his children, Karen L. Ghrist of Coraopolis, PA, Gary E. Ghrist of Portsmouth, VA and Cheryl L. Ghrist of Houston TX; daughter-in-law, Diana L Ghrist of Crabtree, PA; his grandchildren, Kristina L. McGregor of Greensburg, PA, Samantha Bolin (Bryce) of Virginia Beach, VA Adam Ghrist (Victoria) of Charleston, SC; his great grandsons, Jay McGregor and Wesley Bolin; also, several nieces and nephews.

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*Our church family extends our deepest sympathy to family and friends in the loss of Ray Ghrist. You have our love and prayers.*



# The Sights and Sounds of Christmas at Greensburg Church of the Brethren



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Address Service Requested

