



Rev. Stanley Jenkins
Pastor, Head of Staff

At its December meeting the Session will vote on whether or not to covenant to become a Matthew 25 church. What is that? It is a movement within the Presbyterian Church (USA), rooted in scripture (**Matthew 25:31-46**), which “calls on mid councils, congregations, and groups to live out the church’s mission through bold and compassionate discipleship.”

I have experience with this movement in my previous church and presbytery and have found it to be an incredibly

helpful tool in focusing a sense of mission. Who are we in today’s world and what should we be doing?

There are three pillars in the Matthew 25 movement:

“Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.

“Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.

“Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.”

What I have found liberating in this movement is the explicit linking of church vitality with an outward focus on “big ticket” items. The church is encouraged to dream big, to take a lead in helping to shape our environment in impactful ways—to build, in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words “the Beloved Community.” Vitality is defined in passionate, faithful, and outward-focused mission, as opposed to merely church attendance or membership numbers.

In the face of growing secularization, progressive churches have often been tempted to feel irrelevant—and in feeling so, becoming so. We have felt powerless, paralyzed and have often flirted with a kind of low grade despair. We turn inward. We look for someone to blame. We look for magic bullets to turn back the clock to some imagined golden age. We grow small in our hopes and our faith.

Other churches have been tempted toward the idolatry of

Christian Nationalism, or the Prosperity Gospel. None of these responses are scriptural, faithful, or even especially helpful in addressing the reality of secularization and the decline in the mainline denominations.

The Matthew 25 movement calls us to a radical hope—to reclaim our agency returned to us by the victory over sin and death in Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. It calls us out of the shadows of the tomb and into the streets and the communities that we have been called to serve.

In covenanting to become a Matthew 25 church, Market Square would be mostly ratifying what we already do—but we would also be gaining a valuable tool helping us to focus our mission and root it in scripture and Jesus’ mission.

As we “seek first the Kingdom of God,” I encourage us all to read **Matthew 25:31-46** again (and often) and visit the movement’s web page: <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>.



Cub Pack and Scout Troop 233 from Dauphin delivered more than 30 boxes of food collected through their annual food drive. Vaughan and Jameson Kerns, along with their fellow scouts, helped with the delivery. We also received a generous \$200 donation from the Dauphin Middle Paxton Home Association in support of the Troop’s effort.

We’re deeply grateful for the kindness and generosity our community continues to show during these challenging times!

Christmas Gifts for Our Breakfast Guests

The deacons will provide hats, gloves, and snacks to our breakfast guests on Sunday, December 21. We’re requesting monetary donations only to support this effort.

Please write “Christmas Gifts” on your check or give via our online giving page.

Deadline for donations: December 7

Thank you for helping us spread Christmas cheer!



Pastor Allison Smith

Blue Christmas

For many of us, the holiday season brings both joy and sorrow. Annual traditions make us nostalgic for days gone by, and can also highlight the changes we face, the griefs we carry, the loved ones we've lost. So, as we enter a time charged with emotion, we invite you to tend to your spirit and connect with God at the Blue Christmas service this year. This year the service will take place on December 7, immediately after worship, at 12:30 in Geneva Hall. The service will include a time to light candles, bringing light into the darkness, and to receive anointing and prayer.



Lunch and Learn

December's Lunch and Learn will be on December 14 at 12:30 p.m., immediately after worship. Come share some lunch and some robust discussion on 1 Samuel chapters 8-12. **Note: Just for December we're meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the month!**

Children's Prayer Breakfast

This will be on December 21st, the 3rd Sunday of the month, because we'll be doing a run through of the Pageant that morning!

Take A Deeper Dive!

By Barbara Jewett

This fall Market Square initiated a new Bible Study Class that includes discussion designed not only to take a deeper dive on Bible passages but also to help us build connections in our lives.

The class, which meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room (4th floor), allows us to connect scripture with our daily lived experience, connect with one another, and connect with God.

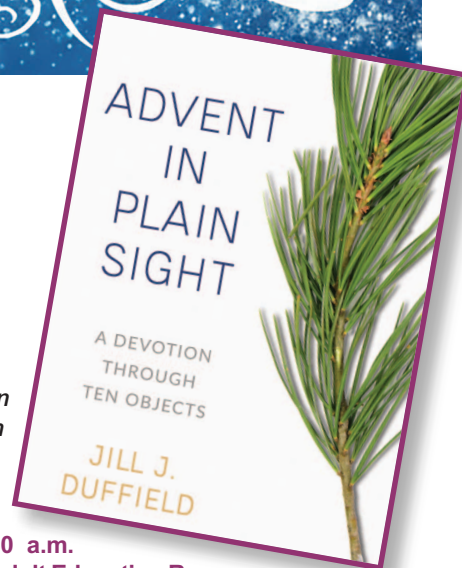
Led by Elders John Dame and Kevin Burrell, participants discuss what God is saying to us and how it relates to our lives and our world today. Scripture focus is the weekly lectionary, specifically the selected Old or New Testament passage that will be the focus of each Sunday's sermon, allowing us to both learn through discussion in class and also receive additional perspective from the pulpit.

For example, one of October's lectionary passages focused on Luke 18:9-14, which told the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector and their prayers to God. Class discussion focused on different interpretations of the prayers each uttered and how each prayer said something about their self-awareness and the lessons that can teach us, while the sermon focused on the danger of judging others and the necessity for discernment in making those judgments, for example, judging and rightly condemning policies that ICE has adopted in detaining and confronting people while being cautious in judging individual ICE members, who may or may not agree with those policies.

All members are encouraged to join this time for fellowship and meaningful discussion by taking a deeper dive into what the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the written Word!

Join Us For A Six-Week Advent & Christmas Study Series

Based on *Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects*, by Jill J. Duffield



**Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.
November 30 - January 4 Adult Education Room.**

All of our copies have been claimed but we have another order on the way! Please contact Nancy Sheets if you'd like a copy.

At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. The book, *Advent in Plain Sight*, draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation. Through focusing on these objects, we can see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks us to do and be.

This year our church will use the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of this group study will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

From Refuge to Rejection: America's Moral Responsibility to Welcome the Stranger

By Dr. Phuong N. Truong

When Mr. Ahmad and his family arrived in the United States in 2024, they came as refugees—fleeing Afghanistan in the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power. Like so many before them, they hoped for safety, dignity, and a chance to rebuild. They landed not just in a new country but in a new life, with nothing but courage and the clothes on their backs.

With the support of Jewish Family Services and later the International Services Center's Afghan Refugee Support Services, Mr. Ahmad began a relentless journey toward self-sufficiency. His story is one of perseverance: navigating new systems, learning English, attending job interviews with the help of interpreters, and eventually securing a forklift operator position. His wife, too, secured a job as a caregiver for his elderly parents. Slowly but surely, the Ahmad family was becoming part of the American fabric. This is just one story of hundreds of families our organization, International Service Center (ISC), works with every year.

Then the door slammed shut.

On January 27, 2025, the administration suspended the national Refugee Resettlement Program. Agencies were forced to terminate critical refugee programs overnight. Families were left adrift in a sea of uncertainty. As if that were not enough, President Trump has now declared that the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program for 200,000 Afghans—and 16 other countries—will not be renewed. And what hovers over so many families we serve is the looming threat of deportation.

The administration's strategy is not subtle. Its end goal is not reform, but removal. There is no honest attempt to fix a "broken system," only a maximalist effort to purge the country of people who sought a better future. TPS, asylum claims, parole programs—these are being dismantled not because they failed, but because they succeeded in helping vulnerable people survive.

Now, those people—our neighbors—are being criminalized.

The International Service Center is still reeling from the abrupt suspension of government reimbursements; we have spent over \$300,000 out of our funds reserved for other important projects to continue providing refugee support services. And yet, amid this chaos, communities of conscience have stepped up. Most notably, the Market Square Presbyterian Church (MSPC) where the ISC has been operating from for half a century, has stood firm in its support, providing moral clarity and critical financial lifelines, including a \$30,000 donation from longtime members William and Jane Murray.

MSPC's recent "Operational Security" memo does not mince words: *The demonization of immigrants is immoral*. It outlines concrete legal and ethical strategies to resist unconstitutional raids, protect the dignity of their buildings as sanctuaries, and stand unwaveringly on the side of justice. Their moral compass points true north, guided by the ancient imperative: *"I was a stranger, and you invited me in."*

Some may say the issue is political. But when families are being ripped apart, when workers contributing to our economy face deportation, when churches prepare for federal agents to knock on their doors, this is not a policy debate. This is a moral emergency.

We must ask ourselves: What values do we uphold when we turn our backs on those fleeing wars, persecution, and tyranny?

The data is crystal clear. Studies from the Migration Policy Institute, Economic Policy Institute, and the Department of Health and Human Services all show that immigrants are not a burden. They are a boon. Immigrants contribute billions in tax revenue, bolster our aging workforce, and fill critical roles across industries. Their children will keep our schools, hospitals, and social security programs alive.

Yet, even with facts on their side, it is stories like Mr. Ahmad's that most powerfully remind us of what is at stake. America is not merely a set of policies. It is a set of promises. And those promises mean nothing if we do not keep them in the face of fear.

So let us raise our voices. Let us speak of compassion, not contempt. Let us call on Congress not only to restore funding, but to restore humanity. Let us reject the cruelty of mass deportation and instead embrace the courage of welcome.

Because what we do now—how we respond to that knock at the door—will define who we are as a nation.

Dr. Phuong N. Truong is the Executive Director of the International Service Center, based at the Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our English language worship services are livestreamed from our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The livestream button is at the top of the homepage of our website which links to our YouTube livestream channel. Click on the date you wish to watch. Previous services are also available there.

www.marketsquarechurch.org

Korean language sermons are posted on the Korean Ministries YouTube channel: <https://shorturl.at/NcYFw>

December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:30 am | Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching |
| 11:00 am | English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins preaching
Sacrament of Holy Communion |
| 12:30 pm | Blue Christmas in Geneva Hall |

December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 am | Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching |
| 11:00 am | English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins preaching |

December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:30 am | Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching |
| 11:00 am | English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
Christmas Pageant by the children and youth of Market Square |

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 6:30 pm | Prelude Music Begins in the Sanctuary |
| 7:00 pm | Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
The Reverend Allison R. Smith Preaching |
| 10:30 pm | Prelude Music Begins in the Sanctuary |
| 11:00 pm | Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins Preaching |

December 28: 1st Sunday of Christmas

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 am | Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Nam Gil Roh preaching |
| 11:00 am | English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Allison R. Smith leading
Lessons and Carols |



Music Notes

Dear friends,

Happy Advent! It is that time of the year again. Can you believe it?! I know that we all have a huge laundry list of things to accomplish before the holidays, but I hope you will make the time to join us at church as we have exciting opportunities this month!

Tyler Canonico-Dilley
Minister of Music

Sunday, **December 7** is the Second Sunday of Advent. Following worship, we will offer our Blue Christmas service upstairs in Geneva Hall. If you aren't quite in the Christmas spirit, we understand, and this service might be just for you. We will gather upstairs by a table illuminated with candles, and we will have a quiet and reflective service together.

If you are interested in attending Lebanon Valley College's and/or Messiah University's Christmas concerts, I invite you to check out the schools' website to learn more. Both institutions will hold their Christmas programs on December 6 and 7.

Sunday, **December 14** is the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday we will celebrate the Virgin Mary in worship. We will also recognize Ethan Draper in worship and thank him for his ministry with us. You have probably read in the bulletin by now that Ethan has accepted a full-time position at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania. We send him off with warm wishes and know that he will do great things!

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT is on Sunday **December 14** at 4:00 p.m. and we have a *Magnificent Christmas* program planned. The choir, accompanied by an orchestra, will sing John Rutter's "Magnificat," lots of holiday favorites including "Sleigh Ride," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and more. There will be audience carol singing, readings, candle lighting, and more. It will

be a moving evening, and I hope you will come partake in the festivities! You don't want to miss this year's program!

Sunday, **December 21** is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We are looking forward to the children, youth, and college students sharing a pageant in worship for us. It is understanding that some folks are unable to attend on Christmas Eve because of not wanting to drive at night. So, on the 21st, we'll sing a few Christmas carols in worship as we quickly approach Christ's birth on the 25th!

We have two beautiful candlelight traditional **Christmas Eve** services planned for 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Preludes will begin thirty minutes prior to each service. At 6:30 p.m., the Market Square Ringers, the Sanctuary Choir, and Marty and Lucy Schlenker will share in the thirty-minute prelude. The Sanctuary Choir will sing the 10:30 p.m. choral prelude. We will also be joined by Ruth Hunter on harp for both services.

Join us on Sunday, **December 28** for the First Sunday of Christmas. We will have a service of Lessons and Carols, and Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman will be on the bench.

I hope you have a beautiful Advent season and a joyous Christmas! Peace and love,
Tyler

Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for December:

December 7 (Advent II) – "A Voice Cries Out, 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'" by Lloyd Larson and Margaret Burk's "There Is No Rose"

December 14 (Advent III) – John Stainer's "Magnificat" and "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz

December 21 (Advent IV) – "And the Glory of the Lord" from George F. Handel's *Messiah*, and "What Ya Gonna Name Your Baby Boy?" by David Lantz III

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A Magnificent Christmas!

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m.

60-voice Choir
28-piece Chamber Orchestra
Ethan Draper, organ
Tyler Canonico-Dilley, conductor

Rutter's *Magnificat*
Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*
Lots of holiday favorites!
Carol-singing and candlelighting

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 20 S. 2ND STREET | HARRISBURG

Details at artsonthesquare.net • Suggested donation \$15

Sponsored by The Carole DeSoto Foundation and Mr. Thomas Arnoldi. Complimentary parking in the Market Square Garage.

arts
ON THE Square
Market Square
Presbyterian Church



A vibrant illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a wooden manger is set within a simple wooden structure. Mary and Joseph are present with the infant Jesus. Several shepherds, dressed in traditional robes, are gathered around, some with their hands raised in praise. A flock of sheep is visible in the foreground. The background features rolling hills and a dramatic sky with a bright, multi-pointed star shining down. The overall color palette is dominated by warm oranges, reds, and yellows, contrasting with the deep blues of the night sky.

Come Home for **CHRISTMAS**

Special Services at Market Square in December

Sunday, December 7

Blue Christmas, 12:30 p.m. in Geneva Hall

Sunday, December 14

Carols by Candlelight, *A Magnificent Christmas!* 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Services, 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Preludes for both services begin 30 minutes prior



20 S. 2nd Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101 | marketsquarechurch.org

Parking is provided in the garage beside the church.





A Gift for our New Pastor

During the reception following the installation service for Stan as our minister, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) presented him with a gift on behalf of the entire congregation. Pictured above is the moment when Stan first saw the painting commissioned by the PNC and given to him as a commemoration of that special day.

The painting is by local artist Mimi Conrey.

During the interviews with the PNC and in his first public comments to the congregation, Stan used the imagery of a kite, signifying that like a kite aloft, Market Square Presbyterian Church is already at work serving the community in response to God's call and it is up to us now to direct its flight. In the painting, the kite appears in Pentecostal red with its string running towards the steeple. The artist chose the distinctive viewpoint from the ground up in recognition of the church's homeless ministries, offering the perspective shared by those who have gathered in front of the church.



At left: When the recipe says "serves 100," but Rev. Anne Ross says, "Hold my ladle." That's the sound of her stirring up a biblical-level feast for our unhoused neighbors on Friday. May her arm strength be with her!

Our Church Family

Deaths

John Dickinson's brother in law Warren "Freddy" Ellison on November 3.

The Rev. Lois Richwine died on November 16. Her celebration of life will take place on Saturday, December 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Monaghan Presbyterian Church in Dillsburg, with a visitation one hour prior.

Births

Former Pastor Tom Sweet and his wife Lori welcomed their second grandson on October 26. Austin Daniel joins big brother Sully.

Ed Allgood's sister had a baby recently.

Next Marketplace Deadline: Sunday, December 14

Please email articles and photos to
sheets@marketsquarechurch.org and
khultman@comcast.net

Help Us Finish the Year Strong

As we approach the end of the year, we are currently projecting a **\$32,000 pledge/general fund deficit** unless contributions increase in December. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to give this year, we would be deeply grateful for your support. If you have already given so generously, but are able to do a little more, we would truly appreciate it!

To ensure mailed donations arrive in time, **please send them by December 17**, as mail delivery can be slow during the holidays. You may also place your gift in the **offering plate on Sunday** or **give online by clicking "Donate" on our church website.**

Thank you for your faithful generosity and continued support — your gifts make our ministries possible!

Michelle Sheaffer, Financial Administrator

Stewardship

YTD Actual:	\$380,265
YTD Budget:	\$400,000
Deficit:	— \$19,735

A note of thanks

Sandy Bell would like to thank her church family for all the prayers and expressions of sympathy following the deaths of her beloveds, Shirley (her sister) and Murray (her dog), on the same day.

MARKET SQUARE'S WORK WITH REFUGEES

Market Square Church started helping refugees in 2018. We continue to help the AlMeslehs of Syria today. In addition, the 2 brothers of patriarch Ayman AlMesleh have brought their families to Mechanicsburg, and we have helped them. In early 2022, metro Harrisburg started to see a large influx of Afghans due to the U.S. military pullout from Afghanistan. Market Square Church mobilized a volunteer bank of 25 individuals who wanted to help refugees. Since that time, we have helped and continue to help 7 Afghan families, the 3 Syrian families previously mentioned, and 1 Sudanese family.

Our help has included ESL teaching and tutoring, finding jobs, locating housing, transporting refugees to medical and dental appointments, registering youngsters in the school systems, obtaining bicycles, facilitating a car donation, obtaining and delivering furniture and household goods to the refugee homes, and related matters. It has kept us busy.

I have been asked if the International Service Center (ISC) located in our basement is still operational. The answer is "yes." 16 of the ISC staff were laid off recently due to shortage of funds. Today walking through the ISC area I see fewer employees. But on Friday, 11/7 our food pantry for refugees was in full operation with ample supplies of produce, canned and packaged products, fresh eggs, frozen Butterball turkeys and turkey breasts. Currently the ISC staff is helping Ayman AlMesleh get a good, full-time job. From what I see the ISC is alive and well.

There is a substantial army of volunteers in metro Harrisburg helping refugee families. These helpers come from churches and religious organizations. Case workers and staff from the ISC help and support the volunteers. The ISC is headed by an excellent Executive Director, Dr. Truong Phuong.

In the 4 years I've been involved with refugee work, I've found refugees to be resourceful, hardworking, optimistic people. They don't complain! They are thankful for our outpouring of help. I am grateful and thankful to be able to do this work with the full support of Market Square Church and all our wonderful volunteers!! Thank you!!!!

Thank you to Debbie Olson for volunteering to give driving lessons to Be Be.

Roger Olson

Right: Hamid Takhnekyar with sons Ali and Omar admiring 13" Samsung laptop they received from Jonelle Darr. Hamid worked for the BBC in Afghanistan and wants to teach his family computer skills.



Be Be Takhnekyar, 1-month daughter Kawsar and daughter Bi Bi of our new Afghan family. They live in Enola.



Left: Volunteer J. J. Patterson with his pickup truck filled with furniture and household items from New Digs. Delivery was to the Afghan Bayani family in New Cumberland.

Right: Volunteer Dr. Stuart Warren with his pickup truck filled with furniture and household items destined for the Bayani family in New Cumberland.



Session Activities – November 2025 Activity Update

By Jonelle Darr, Clerk of Session

Market Square's Session is responsible for the church's mission, governance, and programs. Pastor Stan Jenkins moderates the Session. Current Ruling Elders may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms. Active 2025 Elders are:

Terms Expiring in 2025	Terms Expiring in 2026	Terms Expiring in 2027
George Blashford (1 st term)	Cindy Bendroth (2 nd term)	Sandy Bell (2nd term)
Beth Cate-Freeman (1 st term)	Kristin Cassell (1 st term)	Betsy Cobb (1st term)
Jonelle Darr (2 nd term)	Dale Laninga (2 nd term)	Andrew Hunter (2nd term)
Theresa Elliott (1 st term)	Dave Lehman (2 nd term)	Steve McMullen (1st term)
Beth Hager (1 st term)	David Volkman (1 st term)	Lana Walmer (1st term)
Nancy Snyder (2 nd term)		

A complete list of all church officers and committee members is available on the church website's Members Only section.

In November, Session's activities included:

Faith and Justice

1) Approved the launch of a free Street Medicine program — a volunteer-based medical outreach effort providing essential healthcare directly to individuals who experience homelessness in and around Market Square Presbyterian Church. Background: When Rev. Stan met his new personal physician, Dr. Shenoy, for the first time and his doctor learned where he worked, Dr. Shenoy said that he knew of the church's work with the unhoused. He said that he was interested in doing a free medical clinic at the church. A trial run occurred during the November 16th Sunday community breakfast. The trial went really well. Eleven people were seen; two received antibiotics; others received prescriptions. To ensure building security, patients are escorted by Market Square volunteers to meet with Dr. Shenoy in Dave Volkman's office.

2) Approved the continuation of the Friday night takeout meal program for those who are hungry and increased the average cost per week to \$300 using funds from the James Jones Feed the Hungry Fund. Background: They are currently serving about 130-140 meals each week. This is the maximum number of meals that can be prepared and is well above the eighty meals a week that was originally planned. Costs have also risen in the past year.

3) Approved the continuation of Ben Perez's employment as Coordinator of Homeless Services with funding to come from the Eleanor Allen Fund for the Homeless and/or other sources.

4) Approved Market Square's commitment of in-kind resources to support the United Way of the Capital Region's Money in Your Pocket VITA Campaign for January through April 2026. Market Square will contribute \$9437 in in-kind donations in recognition of the excellent tax preparation services provided to those in our community who need them most.

5) Approved Market Square's participation in an Oral Care Product Recycling program and commended the committee for their efforts.

Outreach and Marketing

6) Approved contracting with Lamar Advertising for a digital billboard on Second Street during Advent at a cost of \$1700 for four weeks. The cost shall be paid using the Heath Allen Mission Fund.

Trustees

7) Authorized the use of up to \$12,000 from the Carl Petersheim Fund to be used for construction of a lower-level office for the Minister of Music.

Membership

8) Recognized the death of the Reverend Lois Richwine, an active attendee of MSPC and a former staff member, who died unexpectedly on Sunday, November 16, 2025.

Congregation

9) Called a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing 2026 officers on Sunday, December 21, 2025 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

10) Set the service to ordain and install new officers for Sunday, January 18, 2025.

11) Set the annual congregational meeting for the purpose of hearing and acting upon reports from the officers of the corporation, to receive 2025 annual reports, to review the 2026 church budget, and to finalize the terms of call for the Head of Staff/Pastor on Sunday February 1, 2025 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

As of November 18, 2025, there were 340 members on the church membership rolls. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our Pastors.

Movie Night



JOHN CANDY
ALLY SHEEDY
MAUREEN O'HARA

ONLY THE LONELY

December 5th

At 6:45 p.m. in Geneva Hall, Dr. Jamie Caffier will present *"Only the Lonely,"* a dramedy starring John Candy, Maureen O'Hara, and Ally Sheedy.

Lonely Chicago beat cop, Danny Muldoon (Candy), strikes up a romance with shy funeral assistant, Theresa Luna (Sheedy). The biggest obstacle in their relationship is Danny's controlling mother, Rose (O'Hara), with whom he lives.

Before he can tie the knot,
he has to untie the apron strings.

Along the River & Beyond: Landscapes by Jonathan Frazier and Carrie Wissler-Thomas

**Geneva Hall (4th floor) and the Atrium
on display through Sunday, December 14**
*Sponsored by John K. Robinson in memory of
Rachel Robinson Bair*

Last chance to view will be directly after the *Carols By Candlelight* concert on December 14 when one of the artists, Jonathan Frazier, plans to join us in Geneva Hall.

Check out artist interviews with both Jonathan and Carrie on Market Square's YouTube Channel:

<https://tinyurl.com/5xbw96pe>

**Next exhibit opening & reception: Sunday,
January 18 - Faces and Places: Works by
Mindy Deardorff and Sherryl Heberlig**

*Above right:
Artists Carrie
Wissler-Thomas and
Jonathan Frazier
during installation
for their Arts on the
Square exhibit Along
the River & Beyond.*

*Right: A few of the
paintings in the exhibition.*



arts
ON THE
Square
Gallery
Market Square Presbyterian Church



Board of Trustees Update

Not only in November but throughout the year, there is much for which we can be thankful at Market Square. These are among the things for which the Trustees are thankful this year:

Completion this Fall of the church's two-year exterior restoration. Not only is the building better protected from the elements, but it also has a crisp, refreshed look that says what we know: MSPC is a vibrant congregation here to stay in fulfillment of its many missions and enduring faith.

Conclusion of the waterlogged lower level's restoration. With a sense of déjà vu for some perhaps, the music department again took up residence there after some years as the children's education suite.

Design and installation of an exterior door on the Blackberry Street alcove to eliminate use of that space for unsafe storage or occupancy by some of that space.

Award of a state grant that substantially funded the Safety & Security Committee's plan to improve exterior safety and security. Unobtrusive cameras have been installed and improved lighting is forthcoming, both to discourage untoward or dangerous activity on the building's perimeter.

Input from the Harrisburg Police in helping the Committee adopt best practices. One such: posting numerals inside and

out on exterior doors to assist timely access by emergency responders to the necessary, specific location within our sprawling building.

And finally, we are thankful for the mostly behind the scenes work of the Budget and Investment Committees. The former takes the "short view" of MSPC's finances through the daunting task, ongoing as this is written, of crafting the annual church budget for Session's consideration.

The "long view" of MSPC's finances is guided by the Investment Committee in concert with financial advisor Bryn Mawr Trust. Additionally, the Committee has taken the lead to encourage members' consideration of legacy bequests through the Beacon Society. Stay tuned for more about this in 2026.

I would like to acknowledge Class of 2025 trustees who will not be serving a further term: Phyllis Mooney and John Dickinson have been particularly active committee chairs; Gwen Lehman has lent her experience, knowledge and insight to many projects; and Michelle Simmons has been indispensable as Secretary Pro Tempore as that need arose. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving now and throughout the coming year.

Tom Darr



Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth Care Pledge affirmed by their Session and signed by the Clerk. This was done at Market Square in 2017. The EAC members do their best to honor this pledge. BUT the entire MSPC congregation is charged to do so also. Please take time to read the pledge and be mindful of what it says and what Session voted on.

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The Earth and all Creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this Earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the Earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this Earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's Creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the Creation in response to God's call to Earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all Creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy Creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded Earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

From Jamal Megbil in the West Bank

Hello to each and every one of you. First, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your presence in our lives means so much to us. Even if I don't know each of you individually, and even if we haven't met face to face, I want you to know that you mean a lot to me, and that your prayers for us are always one of the reasons for our survival and one of the reasons we keep going. Thank you for every word and every moment.

Today I am writing to you feeling very down. I wish I could find words to truly express what I'm going through. You may have heard this many times before, but today I mean exactly what I say. I am afraid for my family, for my parents and my children. The situation continues to worsen. Soldiers raid the town every day, carrying out arrests and torture. We stay up every night until morning, vigilant and afraid that they will break into the house and arrest one of us.

Two 16-year-old boys were killed two days ago; they were classmates of my youngest son. He was deeply affected and is now ill. Our spirits are broken. Melissa, my son Zain's 42-day-old daughter, is suffering from a serious liver condition, and her health is deteriorating daily. She is currently in a hospital in Ramallah, but due to the difficult roads, we cannot reach her and check on her. If we decide to take public transportation instead of a car, it will be very expensive. Transportation has become extremely costly, and medications and treatments are very, very expensive. We are having to leave off many basic necessities because of the exorbitant costs.

Fear is consuming me, and helplessness surrounds me. My parents' treatment, household expenses, my granddaughter Melissa, my fear for my children, and the costs of their education and care, I really don't know what to focus on or what to think about. I feel that I will eventually lose all strength and ability.

But, your presence is a source of strength and motivation. Thank you for listening to my words, and I hope that one day I will address you with more positive and joyful words.

Love to all



Earth Wisdom

With a spirit of gratitude for God's gift of Creation, we can maintain a holy, happy, and healthy holiday. The 5 R's of sustainability can guide the commitment to honoring our responsibility for Creation during this holy season. Here are a few possibilities:

REFUSE Avoid tinsel, glitter, and plastic decorations. Instead choose natural materials such as pinecones, dried flowers, and evergreen branches.

REDUCE Cut back on serving red meat to reduce environmental impact, and as a bonus improve your cholesterol numbers.

REUSE Rather than using purchased wrapping paper, wrap gifts in reusable fabrics (that shirt you were going to donate), newsprint, or reused gift bags and bows. A sweet bow could be a pom-pom made of extra brightly colored yarn.

REPURPOSE Consider making name tags from last year's cards or string dried orange slices for a festive decoration,

RECYCLE Take the batteries that no longer work to any of these stores: Lowe's, Home Depot, Staples, and Batteries Plus. They accept both alkaline and rechargeable batteries.

Janet Bargh

Market Square Presbyterian Church
20 South Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Stan Jenkins, Pastor
jenkins@marketsquarechurch.org
Allison R. Smith, Supply Associate Pastor
smith@marketsquarechurch.org
Ki Nam Lee, Pastoral Associate for Korean Ministries
kinlee21c@gmail.com
Anne M. Ross, Pastoral Assistant for Congregational Care
amross0611@gmail.com
James D. Brown, Pastor Emeritus
Jennifer McKenna, Spiritual Director
revjkm@gmail.com
David Volkman, Bridge Operations Manager
volkman@marketsquarechurch.org
Tyler A. Canonico-Dilley, Minister of Music & Organist
canonico@marketsquarechurch.org
Ethan J. Draper, Organ Scholar
draper@marketsquarechurch.org
Ellen B. Hunt, Minister of Music Emerita
ellenhunt@ruthhunter.com
Peter Yardley-Jones, Artist-in-Residence
email@peteryardleyjones.com
Michelle Sheaffer, Financial Administrator
sheaffer@marketsquarechurch.org
Nancy D. Sheets, Ministry Support Administrator
sheets@marketsquarechurch.org
Sean Meara, Facility Manager
meara@marketsquarechurch.org
Benjamin Perez, Homeless Ministry Coordinator
perez@marketsquarechurch.org
Daemeaon Allen, Custodian
Steve Jackson, Parking/Events Staff
Art Miles, Community Breakfast Resource Person
Ollie W. Silver, Sunday Sexton/Events Staff
ollie.silver@aol.com
Sidney Dame, Nursery Caregiver
Newman Stare, Audio Visual Technician
nleeaudiotech@gmail.com
Andrew Hunter, Sound/Livestream Technician
hunterandrew2314@gmail.com

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 273



The Moderator of the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Reverend Janice Tiedeck, participates in Rev. Stan's Service of Installation on November 2.

Sunday Services

Korean Language Service—9:30 a.m.
in the Davis Chapel.
Sermons on YouTube
(*link on the church website's
Worship page*).

English Language Service—11:00 a.m.
in the sanctuary.
The service is livestreamed on our YouTube
channel <https://shorturl.at/xeBHi>

The button for the livestream is at the
top of the homepage of our website.
www.marketsquarechurch.org



OUR MISSION

TO PROCLAIM AND LIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST BY WELCOMING FRIEND AND STRANGER ALIKE INTO OUR DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE FAMILY OF FAITH REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, OR WORLDLY CONDITION OF ANY KIND AS WE CELEBRATE OUR GIFTS, WORK FOR JUSTICE, PEACE, AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, REACH OUT IN MISSION, AND WITNESS TO GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE.