



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

The Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg PA

November 2025

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation.

Just as the ancient Israelites eagerly awaited the

coming of the Messiah, Christians are called to cultivate a spirit of expectancy during Advent. Rather than rushing through the season, take intentional steps to slow down and create space for God to work in your life. One way to foster a sense of expectancy is prayer. Set aside time each day to pray for God's presence to be manifest in your life and in the world around you. Pray for a deeper understanding of the true meaning of Christmas and for hearts to be opened to receive the message of hope and salvation found in Christ.

One common tradition is the lighting of Advent candles. As you light the candles and participate in this ritual, reflect on the significance of each theme and how it relates to your own faith journey. Another tradition is the use of an Advent calendar. Whether it's a traditional paper calendar with daily scripture readings or a digital version with interactive activities, an Advent calendar can serve as a visual reminder of the season's purpose and help you stay focused on Jesus amid the busyness of the holidays. In addition to prayer and reflection, Advent is a time for fasting and self-examination. Just as John the Baptist called the people of his time to repentance in preparation for the coming of Christ, we are called to examine our hearts and lives and repent of anything that separates us from God's love.

Consider incorporating fasting into your Advent discipline. This could involve abstaining from certain foods, activities, or habits that distract you from your spiritual focus. Use this time of fasting to draw closer to God and seek His direction for your life. Alongside fasting, engage in self-examination through the practice of confession. Set aside time to reflect on your thoughts, words, and actions, and confess any sins or shortcomings to God. Allow His grace and mercy to wash over you, renewing your spirit and preparing you to receive the gift of Christ's presence in your life.

Finally, a vital aspect of spiritual preparation for Advent is serving others in love. As followers of Christ, we are called to embody His love and compassion in the world, especially during this season of expectation and hope. Look for opportunities to reach out to those in need, whether through acts of kindness, generosity, or service. Volunteer at a local shelter or food bank, donate to charitable organizations, or simply lend a listening ear to someone who is struggling. By extending love and kindness to others, you not only embody the true spirit of Christmas but also create space for God's love to shine through you. As we journey through the season of Advent, may we be intentional in our spiritual preparations, seeking to deepen our connection to God and one another. By engaging in Scripture reading and reflection, cultivating a spirit of expectancy, embracing Advent traditions and rituals, practicing fasting and self-examination, and serving others in love, we can truly prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Christ's presence anew this Christmas. May this Advent be a time of renewal in prayer, transformation in faith, and hope as we await the coming of our Savior, **Jesus Christ**. - Fr. Chuck +

Join us for Morning Prayer the
first Wednesday of each month
at 10:30 a.m. This month is on
November 5th!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 1 - Vince Angelo

November 5 - Shayna Babour/

Cameron Bradley

November 7 - Olivia Moe

November 18 - Jerome McCullough/

Kay Romey

November 23 - Samantha Giles

November 28 - Darlene Bradley

November 29 - Dave Swatzler

Prayer for November

Let your gentleness be known to every-
one. The Lord is near. Do not worry
about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and
your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:5-7

Blessing Box FOOD OF THE MONTH

Donations needed!

(put these items in the box in the
back of the church or in the blessing
box. Please do not put any perishable
food items in the blessing box.)

Boxes of stuffing mix

Cans of green beans

Cans of corn

Cans of cranberry sauce

Cans of sweet potatoes

Boxes of corn bread mix



the big penny exchange

**Saturday, November 1
11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Exchange your pennies for a Giant Eagle
Gift Card worth **twice** their value!*

Limited to a minimum of 50 pennies
or maximum of 10,000 pennies.

Vestry will meet again Monday,

November 3rd @ 7pm



EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

community. transformation. hope.

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) was founded in 1970 as a collective response to changes in the East End community, born when local faith communities recognized that the troubles of the community were too great for any one of them to address alone. EECM was initially envisioned to serve the young, the elderly, and the poor of the area, as well as to promote interfaith events. Throughout its 50 years, EECM has continued to respond to changing community needs through its many programs and services.

If you'd like to donate money, food, or clothes to aid in supporting the homeless and hungry in our community please visit <https://www.eecm.org> for more information.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Wilkesburg Community Ministry

WCM shares food. They offer their Wilkesburg neighbors a diversified and sustainable source of fresh food in addition to a variety of other foods provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

WCM shares food with over 5,000 residents each year, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth and families who are economically challenged, underemployed or facing emergency situations. The outcomes of their programs include reducing hunger in Wilkesburg, supporting the health and well-being of our senior citizens, helping economically-challenged families have basic necessities and keeping Wilkesburg streets safer through partnerships with education and after-school youth programs.

If you'd like to give, you can donate on their website: <https://www.wcm15221.org/donate.htm>

Or write a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to WCM, 704 Wood Street,

Wilkesburg PA 15221

Check it out! Calvary Episcopal Church over on Shady Ave in Pittsburgh installed new stained glass windows honoring some Pennsylvania legends!

Honoring Absolom Jones, the first Black priest in The Episcopal Church, The Philadelphia 11; the first women ordained in The Episcopal Church, and of course, it wouldn't be Pittsburgh without Mr. Fred Rogers, everyone's favorite neighbor!



Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.243.6100 (phone)
ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com (email)

www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito, Priest
Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry
Cameron & Veronica Bradley,
Parish Ministry Coordinators
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin.
Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian
Greg Gent, Caretaker

