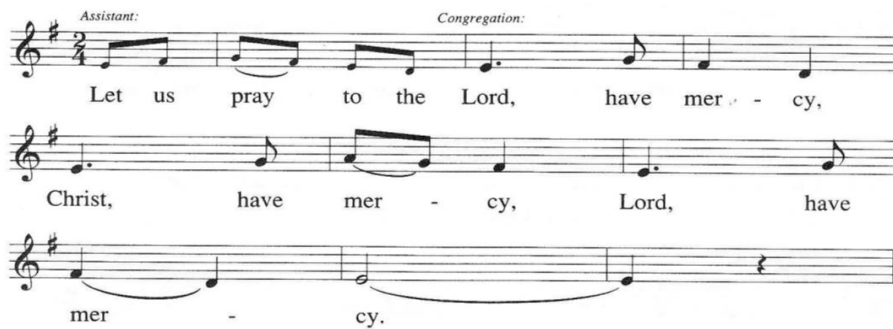


Assistant: Congregation:



Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
 Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
 for the strength to live your word...*REFRAIN*

Assistant: Congregation:



Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
 A - men.

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.
 who lifts up the lowly, and fills the hungry with good things.

And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!

As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and
 seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of steadfast love,

we confess that we love darkness more than your light.

We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings

through material things of creation rather than through you, our Creator.

We are quick to judge others, but so slow to see our own failings.

We ignore the cries of the poor and grow weary of working for justice.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us in saving grace, Amen.

Hear the glad tidings of God! The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to wholeness;

By the mercy of almighty God, and by his authority, I tell you your sins are forgiven.

May you know joy in the Savior's coming, and hope for the days to come,

in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG ELW #248, PEOPLE LOOK EAST



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *Silence. Pastor offers the Prayer of the Day – we join our hearts in prayer. The prayer concludes:*
 ... through Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The Second Candle is lit.

Word

Silence for reflection follows each reading.

THE FIRST READING is from Isaiah, the 11th chapter. (Isaiah 11:1-10)

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM, 72, is read responsively.

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from Romans, the 15th chapter. (Romans 15:4-23)

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL SONG: ELW #290, “Go Tell it On the Mountain”

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

From old the prophets promised, the Savior Christ would come

The Word made flesh, Emmanuel, to make with us a home.

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter. (Matthew 3:1-12)
Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

RESPONSE:

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go! Tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Please join Pastor in silent prayer as we prepare for:

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING HYMN OF THE DAY ELW ##250, BLESSED BE THE GOD



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Looking forward to Christ's coming with hope, we pray for church and community, and for all awaiting justice, wholeness and peace.

A brief silence.

God of Peace; You have blessed us with a vision of peace. As a new shoot rises from a stump, may hope rise in us to strengthen us to work for peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice: defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring God: deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations: urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, and lift the needs upon our hearts before you. People of God for what else shall we pray?... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, made in the name of Emmanuel, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

∞

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

OFFERTORY/ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In house the offering is gathered and presented at the altar. Joining us online, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Let us pray –*Silence*- God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our hope and our peace. Amen.

The Table is prepared as we pray and prepare our hearts.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, it is our duty and our great joy to praise You, O God, for Jesus the Word made flesh, the One who is the Alpha and Omega, our light in the darkness, who restores our hope and renews our joy.

For in the night in which He was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As we reach out for these gifts of Bread and Wine we trust his promise to come again, waiting in hope for that day when all creation will rejoice in His holy and life-giving light: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Come, Lord Jesus! Bless us and this meal, that we may be light for the world. Hear us as we join our voices in obedience and hope to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Emmanuel calls us! These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Come to the table of the Lord, for all is ready.

We shall come with joy! Alleluia, Amen.

THE COMMUNION

We share in the Lord's Body and Blood.

Here is Emmanuel, the gift of God-with-Us. Receive the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you. My brothers and sisters, come to the Table, for all is now ready!

We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!

All who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He is truly present in the forms of bread and wine are invited to commune. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation that you wish.

The musicians will be communed first. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you.' The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.

When all have communed, the post-communion canticle (below) is sung 3 times while the Table is cleared, followed by silence for prayer and reflection.

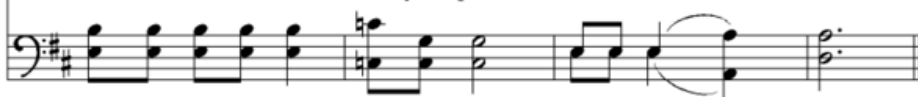
#528, Come and Fill Our Hearts



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Sending

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *-Silence-* Lord of light, God of eternity:

**We thank you for this Holy Meal,
and for the Word which has come to shine in us.**

**As we go out into the world you love,
help us carry the gifts of God to all people,
in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
**Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.**
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE SING THE SENDING HYMN, ELW #249, ON JORDAN'S BANKS



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

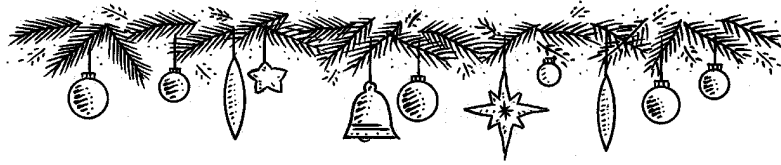


for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

The Rev. Marie Caron, Pastor

Mr. Jeff Cron, Council President

Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730

www.christpipersville.org + christpipersville@gmail.com

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website (www.christpipersville.org).

LECTOR: Jean Graham

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Jean Graham

WE WELCOME Louise Gerdemann as today's organist and thank her for sharing her musical talents with us.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in today's announcements, the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS are available on the table by the sanctuary doors for anyone wishing to purchase a poinsettia for our Christmas display or to make a donation to one of the special church funds. Cost for flowers is \$7.00. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Order deadline is next Sunday, December 11th.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH – Next Sunday, December 11th, following worship we will be "greening" the church. Many helping hands would be appreciated and a light lunch will be provided. Please bring cookies or other goodies to share.

CHILDREN'S REHEARSAL for their musical performance on December 18th will be held immediately following worship next Sunday, December 11th. There will also be a chime rehearsal following worship today.

MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY – We have an opportunity to raise up to \$3,000 to help with this year's heating costs which have gone up significantly. A member of our congregation and their company will each match your donations up to \$1,000. Just put your donation in an envelope marked "matching funds" and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. There are sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

The Week of December 4th at a Glance

- Sun. 12/04 The Second Sunday in Advent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
3-5PM Girl Scouts
Happy Birthday, Dot Kallenbach!
- Mon. 12/05 Office Closed – Cindy day off
TBD Worship and Music Meeting
7:30PM Property Committee
- Tues. 12/06 Office Closed – Cindy day off
Happy Birthday, Zoe Gearhart!
- Wed. 12/07 7:00PM Ensemble
Happy Birthday, Tina Yarnall!
Happy Anniversary, Kristian & Jessica Trauger!
- Thur. 12/08 8:30AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
- Fri. 12/09 Office Closed – Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Jackson Thomas!
- Sat. 12/10 Happy Birthday, Craig Trauger!
- Sun. 12/11 The Third Sunday in Advent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
10:30AM Light Lunch & Greening of the Church
1:00PM Parish Hall Reserved

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

In December 2022, let us pray for...

Joseph Apgar (AF), Tait Blethen (AF), Nancy Bohner (St,P), Adolfo C. (H,R), Dennis C. (H,R,St), Pr. Caron & Family (Pr/C), Michael Clement (H,R), Dave Conway (H,R,St), Florence Cook (NH), Cory Cox (AF), Bishop Patricia Davenport (Pr/C), Jackie Gardner and family (P,St,H), Pr. Ginny Goodwin (Pr/C), Sonja Hadland (H,R,St,P), Cody Harmon (AF), Mary Hurley (Pr/C,H,R), Katherine (H,St,P,Hope), Kevin (R), Roberta Kline (H,R), Tom Macri (AF), Bev Maddux (H,R), Jennifer Marko (H,R,St), Corrine Monesmith (HB), David O. (St,P), Ramona (H,R), Thomas Schumacher (AF), Thomas Shiiba (AF), Rich Weidner (AF), and Zachary (St,Hope,Happiness).

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Marie Wilt, Barbara Deacon, Henry Bechtold (esp. wife Susan), Joy Massell, Jerry Hagerty, and Ann Lawley.

<p>AF: Armed Forces, H: Healing, P: Peace/Patience, R: Recovery, St: Strength, M: Mourning, W: Wisdom T: Thanksgiving, NH: Nursing Home, HB: Home Bound, Pr/C: Pastors/Church Professionals</p>
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Please consider visiting, writing or calling these people who need the support of this faith community. If you know of others for whom you would like the congregation to pray, please notify the church office, 215-766-8730. Let us pray also for anyone besides the ones listed above, who may have some special need or desire.