The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041 www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

January 12, 2025

8:00 a.m. In Person Worship - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!

Christian author John White tells the story of his days as a medical student. For one of his classes, he missed a practicum about venereal disease and had to make it up at the clinic. When he arrived at the clinic he ended up in a line with a bunch of patients who had actually contracted a venereal disease. White barged up to the front and told the head nurse, "I need to see the doctor."

"That's what everybody says," snorted the nurse, "now get in line."

"But I'm a medical student."

"Big deal," said the nurse, "You got it the same way as everybody else; now you can stand in line like everybody else."

John White writes:

In the end I managed to explain to her why I was there, but I can still feel the sense of shame that made me balk at standing in line with the other men who had a venereal disease. Yet Jesus shunned shame as he [went to the cross]. And the moral gulf that separated him from us was far greater than that separating me from the men at the clinic ... But he crossed the gulf, joining our ranks, embraced us and still remained pure. He identified with those he came to save. He became like us.

It is Baptism of the Lord Sunday – we hear of Jesus' baptism. It was not because of sin; it was to identify with us. Hence, we are his and he is mine!

We Praise and Confess The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Prelude *Majesty*

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 53; Matthew 3:17, 17:5

God said, "This is my Son, with whom I am pleased."

But this one has no splendor, no beauty we would fancy.

"This is my child, in whom I take delight."

But this one carries the load of a servant, not the scepter of a king.

"This is my child, whom I have called."

But this one demands justice from all earth's nations; his words shall judge our own.

"This is my child, whom I uphold."

But this one would release the dungeon's prisoners; he would set the captives free.

"This is my child, whose hand I hold."

But this one is a man of sorrows; he is no stranger to grief.

"This is my child; I give him to you."

Surely this child will bear our suffering on his shoulders and carry our rejection in his heart.

Wounded for our transgressions,

he will be cut off from the land of the living.

Like sheep we have gone astray;

like a lamb he shall be led to the slaughter.

And still our God declares it:

"This is my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

^{*}Entrance Hymn: No. 634 **To God Be the Glory** - Doane

*Greeting

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.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
in baptism you grafted us into the body of Christ,
promising us forgiveness of sin and newness of life.
But we fail to live as forgiven people.
We keep destructive habits and hold grudges.
We allow our past to hold us hostage
and are reluctant to welcome newness.
In your loving-kindness
have mercy on us and free us from sin.
Remind us of the promises you have made to us in baptism
so that we may live as your people,

Silence

Declaration of Pardon

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Praise God that in the power of the Spirit

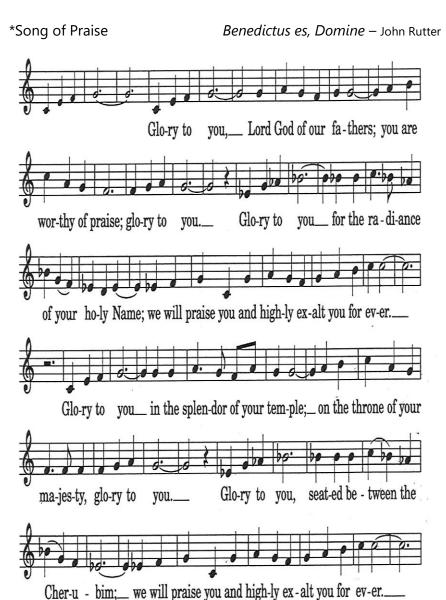
we are joint heirs with Christ!
We see the love of God at Christ's baptism.

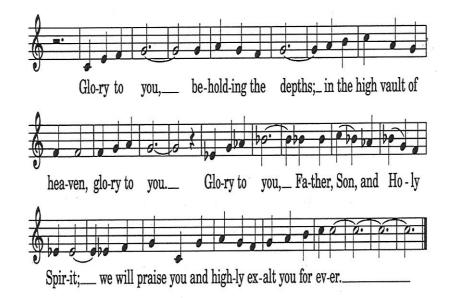
claimed in the waters of promise. Amen.

*Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.





*Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

We Hear and Respond

From the Prophets Isaiah 43:1-7
But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

- ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
- I give Egypt as your ransom,

 Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you,
- I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.
- ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold;
- bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." ¹
- The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

Thanks be to God!

Installation and Ordination* of Consistory
Elders: Thomas Bancroft, Donna Fried
Deacons: Gene Basara*, Randy Peterson

Trustees: Bruce Adam, Frank Eidle, Jr.

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¹ Revised Common Lectionary (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

*Gospel Hymn:

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry — Puer Nobis Nascitur



St. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ²

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams - "PD"

You Are Mine!

*Baptismal Hymn: No. 488

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry - Waterlife

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Olivia Nicole Schuler
Daughter of Eric & Krista
Brother of Brantley
Godparents: Eugene Bachman and Christine Evans

² Revised Common Lectionary (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

The Institution

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Let us hear our Lord's command concerning the sacrament of holy baptism.

After he had risen victorious from the grave, Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." —Matthew 28:18-20, NIV In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers and their children.

The Scriptural Promise – Acts 2:38-39

Peter said to them,
"Repent, and be baptized
every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ
so that your sins may be forgiven;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
For the promise is for you, for your children,
and for all who are far away,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."
—Acts 2:38-39, NRSV

The Presentation

Having heard God's gracious promises to us in Christ, do you desire that Olivia Nicole be baptized?

We do.

In presenting your child for baptism, you announce your love for Jesus Christ, your eagerness to participate in the life of Christ's body, the church, and your commitment to live as Christ's disciples in the world.

With joy, we celebrate together the gift of God's grace in Christ.

Who presents Olivia Nicole for baptism? **We do**.

The Renunciations

Since you are presenting this child for baptism, we ask you, before God and his people, to reject sin and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Do you renounce all evil and powers in the world that defy God's righteousness and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that separate you from the love of God? **I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end? I will, with God's help.

The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

A Covenant Promise

Since you have presented Olivia Nicole for baptism, I ask you the following questions before God and his people.

Do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and affirm the promises of God made to you and your children in his Word?

We do.

Do you promise to instruct Olivia Nicole by word and example, with the help of the Christian community, in the truth of God's Word, and in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ? Do you promise to pray for *her* and teach *her* to pray? Do you promise to nurture *her* within the body of believers, as citizens of Christ's kingdom?

We do, God helping us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Act of Baptism

Congregational Commitment & Welcome

Brothers and sisters,
we now receive Olivia Nicole into Christ's church.
I charge you to nurture and love her
and to assist her to be Christ's faithful disciple.
With joy and thanksgiving,
we now welcome you into Christ's church;
for we are all one in Christ.
We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to help you know and follow Christ.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

*Offertory Response: No. 606 **The Doxology**

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn of Dismissal **Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It** - Ada



We go. . . To share the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people!

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

Toccata on "Carmen Ohio" - Carolyn Hamlin

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In 2025 we celebrate the 300th anniversary at Falkner Swamp Church of the founding of the German Reformed Church in America. To mark that significant anniversary, each Sunday you will find the Questions & Answers from the Heidelberg Catechism printed for The Lord's Day. A refresher for what we believe as Reformed people of God in this place.

Lord's Day 2

Q & A 3

- Q. How do you come to know your misery?
- A. The law of God tells me.1
- 1 Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25

Q & A 4

- Q. What does God's law require of us?
- A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This is the greatest and first commandment.

"And a second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'2

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

- 1 <u>Deut. 6:5</u> 2 <u>Lev. 19:18</u>
- Q & A 5
- Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?
- A. No.¹
 I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.²
- 1 Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10 2 Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus 3:3

JANUARY 12, 2025

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME VISITORS ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: wearethechurch

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS are located in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and at the elevator entrance on the lower level. There is no charge for the booklets.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup. They are located on the upper level near the elevator. Envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated today at the 10:30 a.m. service with **Olivia Nicole Schuler**, daughter of Krista and Eric Schuler. Olivia was born on July 28, 2022, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Godparents are Eugene Bachman and Christine Evans.

BIBLE STUDY will resume on January 16, 2025. The 10:00 a.m. group will be starting Mark, Chapter 9. The 7:00 p.m. group will be starting Mark, Chapter 11. In the event we must cancel, we will follow the Upper Perk School District schedule. Or you may call or text me at 484-686-7325. I am looking forward to starting again. Blessings, Pastor Kern (Erick).

INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS: The new members of the 2025 Consistory will be ordained and/or installed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service today. Those to be ordained or installed are:

Thomas Bancroft and Donna Fried, Elders Gene Basara and Randy Peterson, Deacons Bruce Adam and Frank Eidle, Jr., Trustees **MEMORIAL SERVICE:** A memorial service for **Seth D. Fulmer** will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by interment in the cemetery. You are invited to attend the memorial service and join the family afterwards for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

RESCHEDULED -- FIRST MONDAY MEAL: Chilly temps calls for a warm, rich, savory bowl of chili! Join us **Monday, January 13** for just that...a bowl of chili, bag of Cheezits, cornbread, applesauce and a cookie! *Take out style* serving will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. here at New Gosh. Your host ... New Gosh Christian Education Committee. If you prefer to dine in, Pennsburg UCC will be offering pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, roll and dessert. Dinner there is served promptly at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2025: Starting on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, and running through Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 - all wreaths sponsored through a registered WAA Sponsorship Group will be matched by HQ for placement on next year's National Wreaths Across America Day - Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025! The match will only be honored on online orders and checks dated, and mail postmarked during the 12/14/24-1/17/25 timeframe. If checks are submitted outside this timeframe, the wreaths will not be matched. No Exceptions! Thank you very much for supporting PA0792 - Lt. Matthew Smith Chapter DAR.

CARE PACKAGES: During the month of January items will be collected by the Health & Welfare Committee to create care packages for our young adult members attending college and in the military. Donation boxes will be in the Social Room and on the stage in the Fellowship Hall from Sunday, January 5 through Sunday, January 26 if you would like to contribute. Suggested items include pens, post-it notes, small office supplies, granola bars, candy, gum, mints and individually packaged snacks. Please note: College students are asked to provide a current mailing address to the Church Office by Friday, January 24, 2025 in order to receive a care package. Contact Cindy Roma at croma1014@gmail.com if you have any questions about this project.

Join Pastor Dave the Second Sunday at 9:15 a.m.: Some months ago, Pastor Dave said he would teach a Sunday School class once a month on a specific topic on basic theology/doctrine of the church. He returns to teaching the **Basics of Faith** on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m. in the Bible Fellowship Room. This winter we will be looking at the Theology of the Trinity!

January – Who Is God? The arguments for God's existence, the attributes of God, the names of God, and more! Did you know that God has many names throughout Scripture that reveal the character and personhood of God? We'll dig into God!

February – Who Is Jesus? His pre-existence, his incarnation, his humanity, his deity, his life, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and his return! (Now, if I can cover that in 50 minutes that will be a miracle!) More likely that we will talk about Jesus in February and March!

April – Who is the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit a "person" or an "it?" The Nicene Creed has a phrase in it "he proceeds from the Father and the Son and is worshiped and gloried." What a mouthful – what does that mean? It is a phrase that split the church in the 11th century from the east and west!

Pastor will have PowerPoints and note sheets for each class. We are finite and God is infinite, we will only scratch the surface and hopefully make you more curious to learn more about the Trinity!

2024 YEARBOOK: The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2024 has been set for **MONDAY**, **January 13**, **2025**. Committee chairpersons, youth leaders, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Michael D. Feldman** who passed to eternal rest on January 4, 2025. Please keep his parents, JoAnn (Briggs) Feldman-Winsch and David Feldman, and sister, Deborah Golembeski, and his extended family in your prayers.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS may pick up their arrangements immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. *Flower arrangements that are not picked up on Sunday will be available in the Church Office until Wednesday, after which time they will be discarded.*

BULLETINS are presented in loving memory of our son, Christopher Cressman by Mommy & Daddy; and in honor of the birthday anniversary of mother, Diane Steinman by Stacie Miller and family.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in loving memory of Mae Dietz by son, Roy and family.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT are presented in honor of the 93rd birthday anniversary of Margaret Pennepacker by Leon & Cindy.

THE FLOWERS UNDER THE CROSS are presented in memory of Patricia Mack by Bob, Debbie & Bill, Doreen & Marshall, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ATTENDANCE: 01/05/25 – 8:00 a.m. 50; 10:30 a.m. 46; Livestream (You Tube) 67. Sunday School 51.

Above is the "Live" Concurrent Household Number - (Note: "number of households" is less than "number of people". If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)

OPERATING INCOME through 12/31/24: Current & Benevolences \$6,858; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$100.

OPERATING INCOME 1/5/25: Current & Benevolences \$8,652.50; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$408. General Fund appeal to date \$18,730. Monthly EFT income \$5,060. Brass Buckets \$1,885.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: 73 giving units have responded. There is \$84,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$84,131 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$7,000.53
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$7,000.53
Year to Date Expenses	\$11,002.54
Special Projects BIM Income	\$0.00
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$0.00
Meadows Payback Income Year to Date	\$0.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) – Baptism; Consistory Installation and Ordination
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Seth Fulmer (Sanctuary) followed by interment and Luncheon (FH)
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	First Monday Meal (FH)
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (BF)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (PF)
	10:00 a.m.	Life Long Learning Board meeting (Confirmation Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower level classrooms)
	6:30 p.m.	Personnel Committee (BF)
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (CF)
	12:00 p.m.	Goschenhoppen Meadows Task Force (CF)
	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support (Parlor)
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (FH)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (CF)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)

8:00 a.m.	Narthex – Gene Basara	
	Roberts' Church Office – Will Howe	
	Elevator – Emy Moyer	
	Upper Narthex – Lois Anastas	

Upper Narthex – Lois Anastas Liturgist/Acolyte – Emy Moyer

10:30 a.m. Narthex – Terry Dworkin

Roberts' Church Office – Peter Hemperly

Thank you to our Service Participants

Elevator - Denise Fox

Upper Narthex – Cindy Roma

Liturgist/Acolyte – Thomas Bancroft

Welcome to our 2025 Consistory

Elders:

Thomas Bancroft
Denise Fox
Donna Fried (President)
Will Howe (Vice President)
Emily Moyer (Consistory Secretary)
Nonna Stankunas

Deacons:

Lois Anastas
Doug Atno
Gene Basara
Terry Dworkin
Amy Hangey
Peter Hemperly
Melissa Jamison (Consistory Treasurer)
Randy Peterson

Trustees:

Bruce Adam Frank Eidle, Jr. (2-yr. term) Neil Kemp





This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.



488 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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