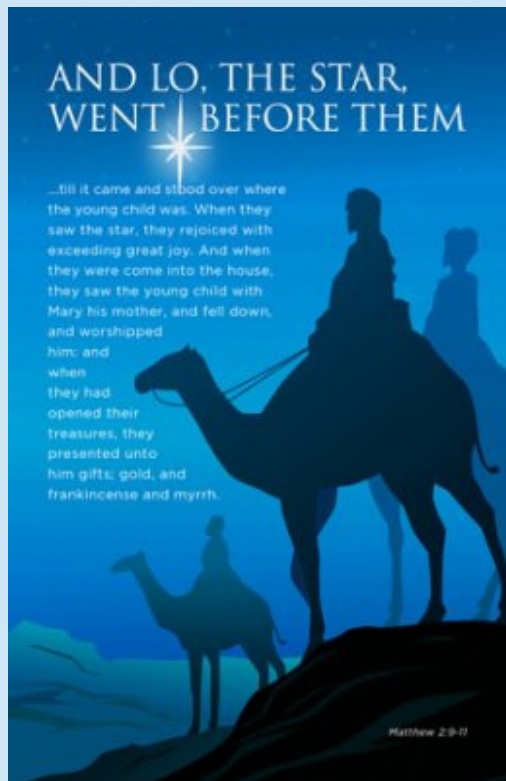


# ***HILLTOP NEWS***



# Christmas

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***Slate Hill Mennonite Church***  
***1352 Slate Hill Road***  
***Camp Hill, PA 17011***  
***Phone: 717-737-8150***

***E-Mail: [slatehillmennonite@gmail.com](mailto:slatehillmennonite@gmail.com)***

***Website: [www.slatehillmennonite.org](http://www.slatehillmennonite.org)***

***Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.***  
***Including Children's Church***  
***Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.***  
***Classes available for all ages***  
***(Nursery also available)***

**Pastor:** Lynn Shertzer

**Associate Pastor of Community Life:** Joy Fasick

**Administrative Assistant:** Fran Leiter

**Lay Elders:** Jen Fredrick, Dave Bauman, Caleb Miller,  
Ron Hershey

**Staff E-mail Addresses:**

Lynn Shertzer: lynn\_shertzer@verizon.net

Joy Fasick: jfasick@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant, Fran Leiter: slatehillmennonite@gmail.com

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday	No office hours
Tuesday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday	By Appointment



## Upcoming Events

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 3  | Cookie Walk ~ 9:00AM   |
| Dec. 4  | South East Asia Program and Luncheon Open to the<br>Entire Slate Hill Congregation |
| Dec. 8  | MCC Sewing Group   |
| Dec. 11 | Children's Christmas Pageant<br>Congregational Meeting and Potluck Luncheon        |
| Dec. 12 | BBQ Committee Meeting  |
| Dec. 14 | Christmas Caroling at New Hope, Mech. ~ 11:00AM                                    |
| Dec. 16 | Christmas Caroling at New Hope, Dillsburg ~ Noon                                   |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service and Dinner   |
| Jan. 15 | Worship Workshop   |
| Jan. 22 | Discernment Meeting and Luncheon   |
| Feb. 12 | Follow-up Discernment Meeting and Luncheon   |

## Matching Mortgage Challenge

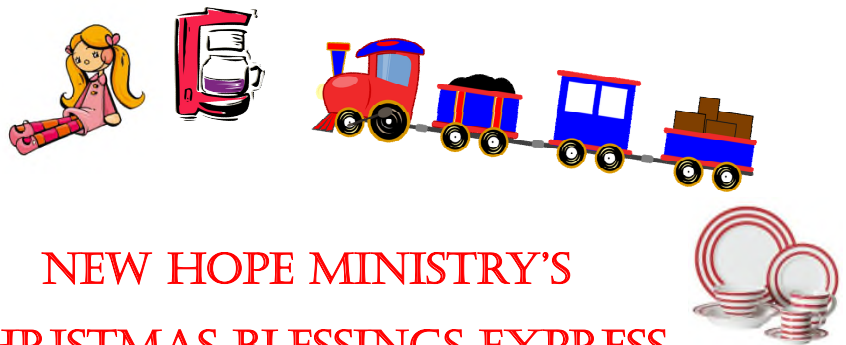


Two anonymous donors have pledged a total of \$32,000 to pay down our mortgage. They have challenged the rest of us to match that amount. Lamarr Widmer told them he is sure we can do that - let's prove him correct!

If the sum of \$64,000 is raised, we will be seven months closer to the retirement of our mortgage debt. This effort will run through the end of January 2017.

You may give through any of the usual church channels. Be sure to **designate your gift for mortgage principal reduction**. If you have questions about this, please contact Lamarr at [widmer@messiah.edu](mailto:widmer@messiah.edu) or 766-3979.

Thus far \$11,884.00 has been donated toward the matching challenge. Praise be to God!



## NEW HOPE MINISTRY'S CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS



Please consider supporting New Hope Ministry's "**Christmas Blessing Express**" program to help struggling families in our local communities. Choose paper "ornaments" from the table in front of the conference room listing gift requests to help plan your giving.

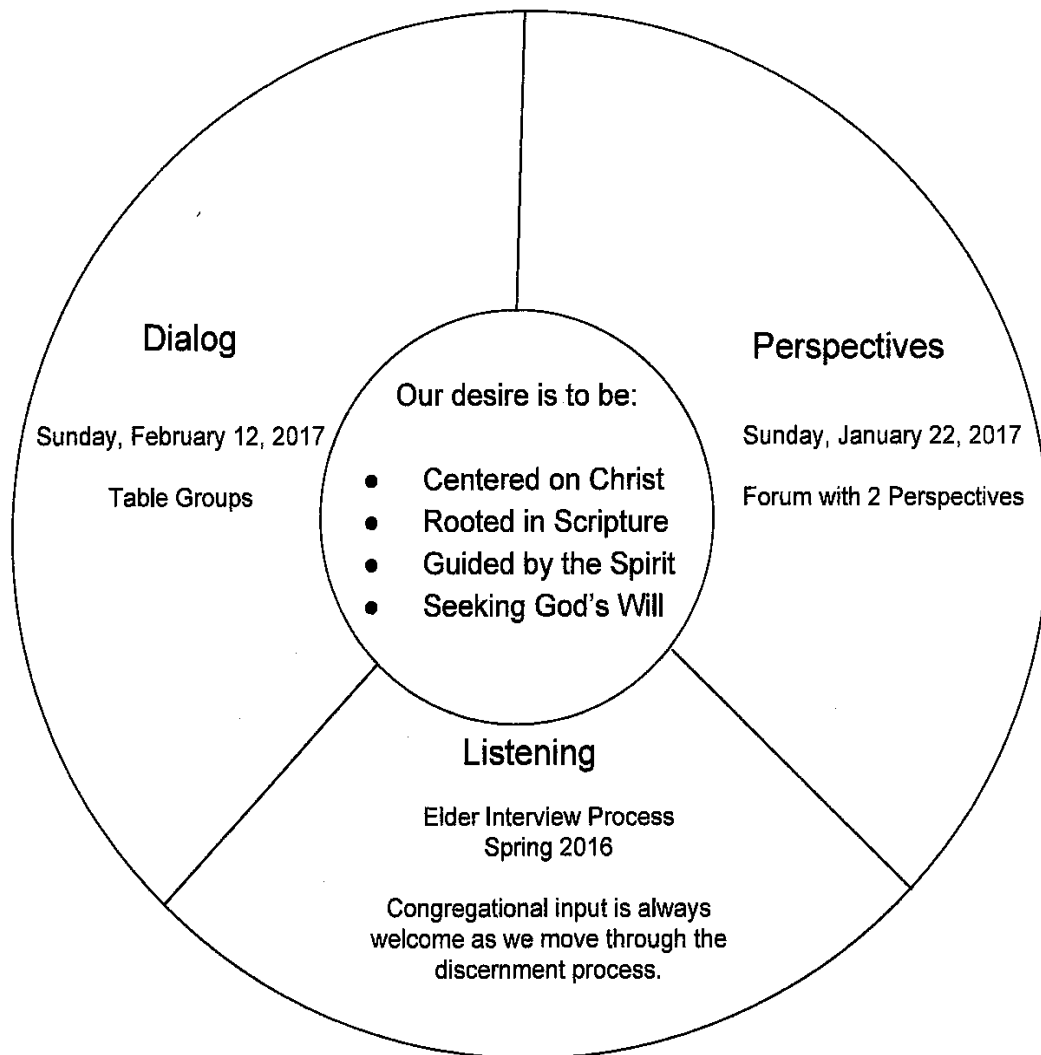
Bring UNWRAPPED items to church by December 11th. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with our community this Christmas season!



# Discernment Process

## Our Goals:

- Maintain a spirit of unity in Christ.
- Provide space for and value the different voices and perspectives God has given our church.
- Model a process of respectful disagreement/conflict, underscored by humility and discernment.



We envision that this discernment process will help us make decisions regarding our affiliation and our position on same-sex relationships that reflect God's will and call for our congregation.

*Mark your calendar now to attend the TWO upcoming meetings and potluck luncheons following Sunday School to discuss the discernment process.*

*January 22, 2017*

*February 12, 2017*



## Third Annual Cookie Walk

### Coming Saturday, December 3rd

### *Calling all cookie bakers!*

tech4Tanzania will be sponsoring a fund-raising "Cookie Walk" again this year here at Slate Hill on Saturday, December 3rd. It will be advertised and open to the public and **we are in need of bakers to supply Christmas cookies.** Pull out all your favorite cookie/candy recipes, browse cookbooks, magazines, and the internet for new ones, and start baking cookies now. Patrons are delighted and especially grateful to find a selection of gluten-free cookies so if you have delicious recipes, we would appreciate your donation.

Please obtain "cookie tags" to identify your donations so we can track our success/future needs and alert purchasers to potential allergens. Patrons will "buy" an empty box for a suggested donation of \$10 then walk around surveying and choosing all the beautiful and delicious cookies they want, carefully stuffing their box(es) for holiday entertaining.

We truly appreciate all you loving and willing bakers - our success depends upon YOU! Donations from one dozen to hundreds of cookies are welcome! Please sign at the bulletin board if you will help by baking cookies. *Please bring your donations to the church Friday noon to 1:30PM or after 6:00PM.* If you would like to assist behind the scenes in any way, please contact: Randy Barr, Myrna or Ken Eshleman, or Fran Leiter. Help would be appreciated either Friday evening or Saturday morning to receive donations, set up, assist at the event, or tear down afterward.



Thanks ever so much, and may God sweetly bless you!

Submitted by Fran Leiter





Happy  
Anniversary



ONELANGSY, Rathasamy & Yoomie	12/03
CHRONISTER, Jodiah & Karman	12/17
HART, JR., William & Beth	12/17
KRUG, Jeff & Kathy	12/27
VIRAYA, Somphone & Keomani	12/29

If your birthday or anniversary information is missing, please email the office with your data so it can be added to the database.  
Thanks!



Happy  
Birthday

REDLINE, Jimmy	12/01
EWING, Jason	12/02
KLEMM, Ulli	12/02
FREDRICK, Ben	12/07
RIOUX, Jackson	12/07
QUICKEL, Julie	12/10
SAENGDY, Khamsene	12/10
TOTHERO, Jenna	12/12
ZERCHER, Henry	12/12
BAUMAN, Debra	12/13
RIDER, Amanda	12/13
CLARK, Kendra	12/15
EDWARDS, Gabriel	12/15
MAYES, Tara	12/15
SAENGDY, Loun	12/15
BAUMBACH, Elaine	12/16
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Eric	12/18
WEAVER, Joe	12/18
LY, Matthew	12/20
MITCHELL, Jim	12/20
ZIMMERMAN, Norm	12/20
RIOUX, Julia	12/21
ZIMMERMAN, Chris	12/21
DETWEILER, Florence	12/22
HARTZLER, Ernie	12/23
BOUNMA, Khaek	12/24
ESHLEMAN, Ken	12/24
LAMB, Brad	12/25
CHRONISTER, Jodiah	12/27
WITMER, Lonie	12/27
HOOVER, Deborah	12/27

# HERE COMES THE SUN: SOLAR POWER BRINGS WATER AND ELECTRICITY TO SHIRATI HOSPITAL



Unloading some of the first solar panels for the water project at Shirati Hospital.

For years, leaking pipes and an erratic power grid stood in the way of a steady water supply for Shirati Hospital in Tanzania. Located a little more than one mile from Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, the hospital often operated without running water for several weeks at a time.

Now a seamless, 4-inch plastic pipe—running 1.7 miles between the lake and the hospital—and a new solar-powered water pump mean a reliable source of water for the 160-bed hospital, which is a ministry of the Tanzania Mennonite Church. The hospital was started by Mennonite missionaries in 1935. Dale Ressler, volunteer executive director of Friends of Shirati, at-

tends Slate Hill, and Slate Hill has supported Friends of Shirati in a variety of ways, including a Christmas giving project that raised money toward playground equipment outside of the new pediatric ward at the hospital.

Within the first three weeks of operation, the solar-powered system had pumped more than 500,000 gallons of water from Lake Victoria to Shirati Hospital. Hospital staff noted that without water shortages, surgical procedures and daily tasks of patient care are much easier. Dr. Bwire Chirangi, medical director of the hospital, says that operating a hospital without consistent running water was an extreme challenge. Many days even the operating rooms had no running water. “One of the permanent agenda items during my leadership has been addressing the unreliable water supply to the hospital,” Chirangi says. “Now I can perform all my surgeries with confidence, knowing that water will be there. Our daily work in the hospital has been changed and made much more efficient by having reliable, affordable water. It has also given us opportunities to serve the neighborhood.”

In addition to providing water to the hospital, the new solar-powered pump will be connected to four stations around the hospital, to which people in the community will have access. Many people in the Shirati area have had to walk several miles round-trip each day for water.

“Waking up the morning after the solar water project was completed and seeing a video of people collecting water was a dream come true,” says Ressler. “You simply can’t do medical work without water. After visiting Shirati Hospital in May, when they had *no* running water for three weeks, I experienced this as a gift from God.”



Panels will supply energy to the hospital, the College of Health Sciences, and a leprosy compound.



The first flow of water from the new solar-powered water pump arrives at Shirati Hospital.

The water project is one of two solar power projects Shirati Hospital. A solar electricity project will use 88 solar panels and more than 400 batteries to generate enough power to run the Shirati Hospital and the Shirati College of Health Sciences, as well as a residence for people living with leprosy. Solar electricity will grant these organizations energy independence, releasing them from expensive electricity bills and fluctuating electrical surges from the government supplier. The solar electricity project is expected to be operational before the end of 2016.

For the solar electricity project, Friends of Shirati purchased the solar panels and set up a lease purchase agreement with the hospital, in which the hospital's monthly payments to Friends of Shirati go toward the eventual purchase of the system and to replenish the revolving loan fund. Friends of Shirati will charge

the hospital about 60 percent of the amount of the hospital's previous monthly electricity bill. Additional donations offset the final amount for which the hospital will be responsible.

As in many parts of the Majority World, Tanzania's renewable energy sector has expanded greatly in recent years. For church-related organizations such as Shirati Hospital, generating electricity and running water from the sun makes sense from economic, environmental, and theological perspectives. "The pump uses God's abundant sunshine, an almost unused resource, to pump his other abundant resource—water—which is the most urgent need of the people," says Friends of Shirati board member Glen Brubaker, who is currently living in Shirati to help with the project. "And it completely avoids poisoning the environment with diesel, oil, and carbon dioxide."

Friends of Shirati, which was organized as a committee under Eastern Mennonite Missions, Salunga, Pa., to support the work of Shirati Hospital, became a nonprofit organization in 2005. The hospital was started by Mennonite missionaries in 1935. In addition to estate gifts and individual donations, churches, Sunday School classes, and small groups have provided funds to Friends of Shirati for a variety of projects. Friends of Shirati provides grants to Shirati Hospital for medicine and medical supplies, pays hospital bills for children whose families can't afford to pay, and supports community education efforts that raise awareness about HIV and AIDS. Other recent projects include removal of asbestos roofing and expansion of the pediatric ward, as well purchase of diagnostic equipment such as a new autoclave, infusion unit, and x-ray machine. "We always work on projects that the hospital administration prioritizes," says Ressler. "They decide what projects they want to do, and then we support that."

Video footage of the solar-powered water project is available on the Friends of Shirati Facebook page. Friends of Shirati is still accepting donations toward the completion of the solar electricity project. More information is available at [www.friendsofshirati.org/](http://www.friendsofshirati.org/).

Submitted by Valerie Weaver-Zercher





*Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs*

**Serving the Mechanicsburg Community**

5228 East Trindle Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

(717) 766-7333

[www.nhm-pa.org](http://www.nhm-pa.org)

Your Local Manager: **Mary Wheeler**

## Engage

It's time for "Christmas Blessing Express," where our guests are able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family and then, if they desire, our volunteers wrap the gifts for them. You cannot imagine the difference you make in the families' lives by your willingness to help make their Christmas a special one, full of wonderful memories. New items can be dropped off at the center before December 15th, Monday – Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. We also need volunteers to help serve during the program. Please check our website for more details about how you can give this season.



## Need help?

If you or someone you know needs help with food, learning budgeting skills, finding a job, or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us.

*Thank You  
~ Mary*



## Serve!

The following volunteer opportunities are available:

### Food Pantry:

Tues, Wed, Fri 12:30-4:00pm

### Appointment Receptionist:

Mon 9:00am-12:30pm

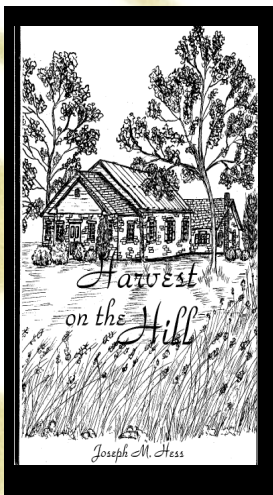
Mon 12:30-4:00pm

Tues 9:00am-12:30pm

Complete an online application on our website.

## Wish List

Ketchup  
Mustard  
Mayonnaise  
Diapers  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Meals  
Canned Meat  
Canned Fruit  
Soup



## *Harvest on the Hill* Reprints Available for the Holidays

Searching for a meaningful gift for family or friends this Christmas season? Consider sending a bit of history of Slate Hill Mennonite Church in the form of a reprinted version of *Harvest on the Hill*.

Previously published in 1991 by Joseph M. Hess, the book covers the history of Mennonite migration into the Cumberland County area pre-1790 and the establishment of our church up to the 1980's.

The newly printed books make a thoughtful gift and feature Joe's well researched writings. Order one or several of the books and send the loving thoughts of our church community. Books are \$10 each. Proceeds from the reprints will be applied to the Church's mortgage reduction and Bicentennial costs. Order by alerting Bishop Paul Nisly at [pnisly@messiah.edu](mailto:pnisly@messiah.edu) or Bob Saline at [bsaline@prworksinc.com](mailto:bsaline@prworksinc.com)





## **Slate Hill Invited to Spread Christmas Cheer**

Both the New Hope Ministries Centers in Mechanicsburg and Dillsburg have invited Slate Hillers to help spread Christmas cheer to their senior citizen clients who frequent the center. Slate Hillers have been asked, as in the past six or seven years, to lead Christmas carols for their respective Senior Citizens Christmas Parties.

Will you consider embracing those who are more vulnerable in our neighborhood and join us? A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. The dates are as follows:

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 11:00AM-1:00PM**  
**New Hope Ministries West Shore Center**  
5228 E. Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg PA 17050

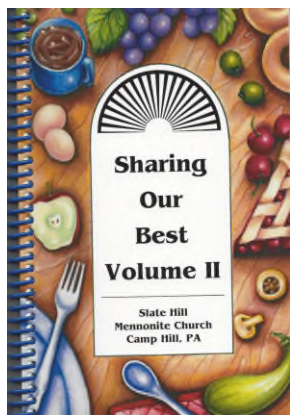


**Friday, December 16, 2016, 12:00-2:30PM**  
**New Hope Ministries Dillsburg Center**

Party is hosted by Calvary United Methodist Church, 203 Mumper Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019

Directions to Calvary UMC:  
15 South  
Left on N. Baltimore St. (74 South)  
Left on Greenbriar Lane  
Short right onto Harrisburg Pike before quick left onto Mumper Lane  
Church is 0.2 miles down the road on the left

The deadline for the January issue of the Hilltop News is Wednesday, December 21. Please keep your news and items of interest coming - there would be no Hilltop News without them!



Are you looking for a thoughtful gift for family, friends, or the cook enthusiast this Christmas season? There are some ***Sharing Our Best, Volume II*** Slate Hill cookbooks available for \$12. These cookbooks are extra special in that friends are remembered each and every time you use it! Please contact Cindy Musselman at 766-1043 or [garycindy1020@gmail.com](mailto:garycindy1020@gmail.com) or Fran Leiter at 756-1884 or [fran.leiter1@verizon.net](mailto:fran.leiter1@verizon.net) to obtain a copy.



## Hittin' the Books!

As many of you know, I am currently working toward a Master's in Counseling on the Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (MCFC) Track at Messiah College. The church board has chosen to provide funding towards my graduate credits. Since YOU are part of that equation, I use Hilltop articles like this to keep you informed of my progress.

Early December finds me continuing my late fall class, Psychopathology and Diagnosis. As I mentioned in the November article, this course involves writing DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) diagnoses and treatment plans for fictional "clients" each week. As counselors, we diagnose mental health disorders of all sorts – anything from intellectual disabilities to schizophrenia to narcolepsy to anorexia and beyond. Counselors also consider other areas that may be the focus of clinical attention. The DSM-5 specifies codes for these areas as well, ranging from various types of relationship distress to occupational problems to problems related to poverty and more. Treatment planning combines both the primary diagnosis and these other areas to work towards improved wellness in a whole-health sense.

As has been the case for nearly all of my classes, my project this semester again relates directly to my work at Slate Hill. Through the project, I'm researching specific approaches for treating a need that I've encountered here at church. I'm thankful that this program has allowed me to directly apply the learning to my work and vice versa.

Submitted by Joy Fasick





## December, 2016 Slate Hill Mennonite Events with Cumberland Vista

Persons attending Slate Hill Mennonite are invited to befriend the wonderfully grace-filled residents of the Cumberland Vista Group Home for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults. Since March 2009, Slate Hill has orchestrated monthly events to strengthen the ties between Slate Hill and these neighbors. Browse the events below then pick one that interests you to join in on the fun!

Date	Time	Event
Fri., Dec. 2	6:30PM	Christmas Cookie Decorating & Carols
Sun., Dec. 18	9:30AM	Cum. Vista residents join Slate Hill for worship & Special Needs Class

Cumberland Vista is one of three Christian group homes for intellectually disabled adults operated by C.R.O.S.S., Inc. (Christian Residential Opportunities & Social Services). They also operate Grace Home in Shippensburg, PA and Griffith House in St. Thomas, PA.

Residents: **Jimmy, Margie, Brian, Lonie, Chris, Jason and Derek**

House Parent: **Dixie Hoffman**, assisted by a variety of staff persons

Slate Hill's "Regulars" joining Cumerland Vista: Cindy & Gary Mussleman, Richard Mininger, Jim Burkholder, Tara Mayes, Elaine Baumbach & Jim Mitchell, Matt Bergey, Sue Weigel, Ulli & Theda Klemm PLUS a host of students from Messiah College (Mandy Rempel, Victoria Jones, Melissa Class, Emily Doron and more!)

Directions to Cumberland Vista from Rt. 15 and Lisburn Road

Head west on Lisburn Road 1.3 miles. At traffic light at Williams Grove Road make a LEFT (heading south) for 2.1 miles. At stop sign at 74 North (Carlisle Road/York Road) make a RIGHT. Go 0.5 miles. Slow down as you approach The Meeting House (formerly called Cumberland Valley Brethren In Christ Church) which will be on your left. Make a LEFT into the church parking lot and keep going straight up the driveway on the hill. It will bear to the right then curve to the left at the top of the hill where you can either park in front of, or behind, the Cumberland Vista home. Meetings and events usually begin in the basement. For special events (cooking/baking, etc.) we usually converge on the first floor which is the top entrance.

For more information, contact: Ulli Klemm (724) 464-8748 or [ulliklemm@yahoo.com](mailto:ulliklemm@yahoo.com)

## Ministry Assignments for 2016-2017

### Elder Team

Lynn Shertzer  
Joy Fasick  
Dave Bauman ('17)  
Jen Fredrick ('19)  
Ron Hershey ('18)  
Caleb Miller ('17)

### Church Board

Lamarr Widmer, Chair ('19)  
John Eby, Treasurer  
Lynn Shertzer  
Debbie Bauman ('18)  
Ray Leiter ('17)  
Danielle Hawley ('19)  
Lyndon Hess ('19)  
Tom Miller ('18)  
Lee Roland ('18)  
Ben Fredrick ('19)

### Christian Education

Danielle Hawley, Chair ('19)  
Joelle Beck ('17)  
Rhoda Hershey ('18)  
Lori Manivong ('17)  
Stacy Petersheim ('18)  
Julia Rioux ('17)  
Patricia Fleischer ('19)

### Evangelism, Peace and Service

Tom Miller, Chair ('18)  
Sara Chubb ('17)  
Ken Eshleman ('18)  
Lucinda Gish ('17)  
David Weaver Zercher ('19)  
Jim Mitchell ('18)

### Trustees

Lyndon Hess, Chair ('19)  
Jeff Beck ('17)  
Dwayne Gish ('19)  
Lionel Hess ('18)  
Gary Musselman ('19)  
Rich Musselman ('17)  
Eric Swartzentruber ('18)  
Paul Zimmerman ('17)

### Worship Commission

Lee Roland, Chair ('18)  
Lynn Shertzer  
Chris Zimmerman ('19)  
Dale Weaver ('17)  
Valerie Weaver Zercher ('18)

### Stewardship

Ben Fredrick, Chair ('19)  
John Eby, Treasurer  
Mike Fasick ('18)  
Brad Lamb ('19)  
Rosalie Roland ('19)  
Diana Zimmerman, Financial Sec't. ('19)

### Food and Fellowship

Cindy Musselman, Chair ('19)  
Matt Fasick ('18)  
Sandy Crouse ('19)  
Fran Leiter ('17)  
Lucy McAloose ('18)  
Jen Musselman ('19)  
Megan Myers ('17)  
Debbie Hoover ('19)  
Debbie Weaver ('18)  
Janet Zimmerman ('18)

### Pastoral Relations

Judy Walter, Chair ('18)  
John Pechart ('17)  
Trang Rioux ('18)  
Deborah Saline ('20)  
Richard Mininger, Bishop

### Technology Committee

Tom Ly, Chair ('18)  
Chris Hawley ('18)  
Jeff Krug ('17)  
Isaac Shertzer ('18)  
Ed White ('19)

### Wellness Committee

Joy Fasick, Chair ('17)  
Hope Alexander ('18)  
Roger Myers ('17)  
Rod Petersheim ('19)  
Ben Simcox ('18)  
Connie Werner ('17)

### Gifts Discernment Committee

Stacy Petersheim, Chair ('19)  
Lee Roland ('19)  
Barb Springer ('18)  
Janet Zimmerman ('17)

### Lancaster Conference Delegates

Lynn Shertzer  
James Burkholder ('17)  
Carol Moser ('18)

### Church Retreat

Joelle Beck ('19)  
Amanda Musselman ('19)