

# THE SLATE

The Monthly Newsletter of  
Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church  
Cardiff, Maryland

## February 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk

February is the prelude to a very busy season in the Church year. This month, we continue with the revelations of Jesus as the Christ in his early earthly ministry. Coincidentally, our Thursday morning Bible Study is also focusing on Jesus' early ministry. As a reminder, we are viewing episodes of "The Chosen". More importantly, we spend some time afterward discussing what we saw, what it meant to each of us, and how viewing Jesus' (and his followers') ministry in this format helps us to understand more fully what the Scriptures hold for us.

Of course, our Clean Plate ministry/mission is also in full swing. I invite everyone to come out and fellowship with friends and meet new people. This is a time that draws everyone together more fully and helps us do what early Christians did on a much more frequent basis – meet over a meal. Many thanks go out to all the hands that are involved in the cooking, serving, and clean-up of these meals.

February is also the month in which Valentine's Day is celebrated, adding to all the activities of the month. Have you planned anything special for your sweetie this Valentine's Day?

Then, skipping just barely into March, Transfiguration Sunday occurs; which marks a dramatic shift in the focus of Jesus' mission. He turns his mission focus directly toward Jerusalem. The Transfiguration ministry shift brings us into the season of Lent, which we begin with Ash Wednesday.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on the first Wednesday of March; which presents a rare opportunity for the Slate Ridge Clean Plate ministry. At the January Session meeting, it was decided that we will offer ashes to anyone who desires them at the Ash Wednesday Clean Plate meal. Additionally, we will have a short Communion Service right there in the fellowship hall. Remember, Jesus and the disciples were engaged in a celebratory meal (think something like Thanksgiving) when Jesus spoke the words we use for communion to this day. Rest assured, it will be a brief time to offer the Lord's Supper to anyone in attendance. Can you think of any better way to kick off the season of Lent? When the suggestion was made at Session to offer Communion on that date, I couldn't have been more pleased, and enthused, with our Session's recognition of our role in Christ's church.

It has already been a long, hard winter. But Ground Hog Day is Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Maybe Punxsutawney Phil will have some good news for us. Regardless, stay safe, stay warm – and please do reach out to the church office if there is anything your church family can help with – not only in these cold weather months, but all year long.

Blessings and prayers for all,

*Pastor Carroll*





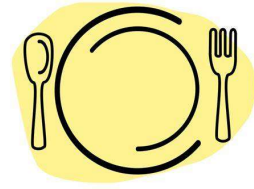
### Slate Ridge Worship services

Worship Services are live-streamed via YouTube (The channel is: @slateridgechurch1239). Fellowship time, prior to the service, begins at 10:30am. The service which includes a Children’s Message, begins at 11:00am and teachers are available to lead “Kids Church.” The service is posted weekly to the SlateRidgeChurch.org website and Slate Ridge’s Facebook page.

**Greeter/Usher** for February is Ron Sturdivant.

### Closers for February

- Feb 2 - Cathy Panos
- Feb 9 - Dave Stewart
- Feb 16 - Brian Amos
- Feb 23 - Bill Scarborough



**Clean Plate - February 5  
5-7pm.**

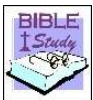
### Calendar



- The Deacons will meet on Sunday, February 2, after worship.
- Souper Bowl of Caring offering to be collected on February 9.
- The Session will meet Wednesday, February 19 at 7pm.
- Clean Plate, March 5, is Ash Wednesday. At approximately 6pm, a short service of Communion will be celebrated and Ashes may be received during the Clean Plate event.

### Deacons News

- Reach out to a Deacon if you think of someone who might like a card from us and might need a reminder of God’s love for them.
- If a member of our church family, or of the local community may need a meal or two (because of hospitalization and recovery following surgery, etc.), the Deacons’ Contact person for meal support is Janet Nicholson. Janet Nicholson’s contact info: 410-937-7753.



**Bible Study.** “The Chosen” Each Thursday we continue to watch one episode of “The Chosen” and then discuss what we have learned. Time is 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring your friends.

**Per Capita 2025.** The cost of Per Capita remains at \$38.00 per member which goes to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Session Finance Committee elects to pay the Per Capita on all our active members. We thank all who contribute their portion.

**Prayer Chain.** Would you like to join our prayer chain to pray for the needs of your church family? If you would like to be added - or if you have urgent prayer needs yourself - please contact Linda in the Church Office. Linda will initiate the prayer chain with our prayer partners.

**North Harford Dance.** Dance in Hyde Hall is used on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Inclement Weather.** If there’s power, a notification will be put on Facebook, and the Slate Ridge website. You will receive a robocall from Linda from telephone number “717-676-6440” (a change). And, as always, use your best judgment regarding driving in winter road conditions.



## Praying for

- Our country.
- Mary Gerlach, broken sternum.
- Janet Whiteford, hospitalized.
- Bill Koegel, hip surgery; Les Whiteford, knee surgery, Michele (Mike) Snodgrass, knee surgery; Sally Kohlbus, fall/wrist surgery; Bonnie Jones, friend of the Fitzgeralds, abdominal surgery.
- Pam Moore's friend, Mike Bastendorf, needs a liver transplant.
- Tracy Knox, Terri Robinson's sister-in-law, is on the lung transplant list.
- Phyllis's brother-in-law, John Faith, is battling congestive heart failure and is at home.
- Sandy Scarborough, constant pain.
- Bill's friend, Opher and family, prayers for safety and protection.
- Sheryl Shubert, stage 2 breast cancer; Terri Cornwell, stage 2 breast cancer; Jen, cancer; Natalie, cancer; Scott Shubert, thyroid cancer; Mary's friend-Louise Geczy, breast cancer; Janet's friend-Davy Jones, chemo treatments, prayers requested; Sonya, blood clot complications delaying surgery; Brian's friend-Don Ayres, cancer; Cindy Seibel, continuing care.
- Mark, Alzheimer's; Danielle; Worley Umbarger, Lyme; Jake Standiford, 12-year-old, seriously burned; Eric, seizures; Ruth Tarbert at Hart Heritage/Grier Nursery; Anna Deaver, Sterling Care; Shelby, Crohn's.
- Continued prayers for our church family, friends, particularly close friends, Buzzy and Janice, and all who continue to grieve the passing of Nelson Lewis.



## With sympathy and prayers

- Betty May, mother of Charlie May, passed away. Prayers to Charlie, Kelly (Kefauver) May and family.



## Please pray for our military

- PFC Aidan Seibel, U.S. Army, Ft. Riley, KS
- Army Spec. Chandler Schmidt, Ft. Polk, LA



Shared by Pastor Carroll



**Birthdays**

- 2 Terry Hunt
- 2 Christine Bredehoff
- 4 Bailey Morris
- 5 Kim (Heaps) Smith
- 9 Fran Mathews
- 9 Connor Stokes
- 12 Paul Butler
- 12 Jonathan Stewart
- 14 Matthew St. Clair
- 16 Penelope Thira Smith
- 17 Julie Stewart
- 20 Kari Six
- 23 Ray Wise
- 23 Robert Wise
- 26 Mark Jones
- 28 Sue Ross



**Anniversaries**

- 21 John & Joann Sliger
- 25 Robert & Marian Glass



**Thank You**

Thank you, many times over, to Mrs. Ann Wenrich for her generous donations each year toward newsletter expenses. *Slate Ridge Church*

**Thank You from Harkins Funeral Home**



“Thank you for sharing your church with everyone that mourns this holiday season.” *Patti and Jeff*

**Thank You from Mason-Dixon Community Services - Highland Center**

“We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to our cause. We promise to be responsible stewards of both your donation and your trust! Please know that your generosity to our agency and to the clients whom we serve is deeply appreciated.” *Jane Skrzypiec*



*Highland Center Director*

Slate Ridge Church Income and Expenses (Dec 2024)		
	2024	2023
Income	\$ 16,787.30	12,998.00
Expense	<u>18,496.37</u>	<u>10,288.00</u>
Net Income	\$ - 1,709.07	\$ 2,710.00



**Souper Bowl of Caring**

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food

donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice. The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities. That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

The Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church will be participating, along with churches across the country, on February 9, the date of the 2025 Super Bowl.

## SLATE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



### SESSION

#### Class of 2025

Debbie Stewart  
Luianne Potter

#### Class of 2026

Marian Koegel  
Jeff Potter

#### Class of 2027

Kristen Stokes  
John C. Johnson

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2025

Rose Amos  
Janet Whiteford

#### Class of 2026

John Fenwick  
Phyllis Fenwick  
Ann Booze

#### Class of 2027

Janet Nicholson  
Rebecca Fitzgerald

### TRUSTEES

#### Class of 2025

Cathy Panos  
Bill Scarborough

#### Class of 2026

Steve Hess

#### Class of 2027

Brian Amos  
David Stewart

### Your 2025 Slate Ridge Church Officers (Session)

#### Session Committees

Finance and Administration - Jeffrey Potter and John Johnson  
Christian Ed - Luianne Potter and Marian Koegel  
Worship and Music - Debbie Stewart, Kristen Stokes and John Johnson  
Mission - Jeffrey Potter and Kristen Stokes  
Evangelism and Congregational Care - Luianne Potter and Marian Koegel  
Nomination - Debbie Stewart

Church Treasurer - Jeffrey Potter  
Clerk - Marian Koegel

Upcoming Mission: Easter Baskets for Mason-Dixon Community Services.



#### Collection for Perry Point Veterans

Every year, the Slate Ridge congregations fill two tubs of items for the Perry Point Veterans; the American Legion Riders of Post #182, Whiteford, coordinates the collection from local churches and will deliver them to Perry Point, perhaps via a motorcycle run. The Perry Point Veterans need NEW clothing (not used) for both men and women and Personal Care Items/Toiletries (without alcohol). Bill Scarborough has put the tubs in place in the Gathering Room.

## It's Proud Grandparents Time: Patti and Jim Gibney!



**LOCK HAVEN, Pa. – IUP senior cross country runner, Dan Gibney, was named to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Fall Top 10 team, announced by the league Wednesday afternoon (January 22, 2025).** Initiated in the 1998-99 academic year, the PSAC Top 10 Awards are designed to recognize student-athletes who excel in both the classroom and in athletic competition. The Top 10 Award is selected by the conference's sports information directors and given to five males and five females in each athletic season: fall, winter and spring. **Gibney was honored with the 2024 Men's Cross Country Champion Scholar Award for his perfect 4.0 grade point average** through 87 credits in pursuit of a degree in Safety, Health, & Environmental Applied Sciences. He earned All-PSAC First Team in 2024, Second Team honors in both 2022 and 2023, All-Region in 2024, and three academic awards. **This season he marked two personal bests** in the 6k and 8k, which included a first-place finish in the 6k at the WLU Invitational (18:45.2). Gibney finished second at PSAC Championships in the 8k (25:36.5) and at NCAA Atlantic Regional Championships he placed 13th in the 10k (30:43.4). **Gibney becomes the 72nd IUP student-athlete to earn PSAC Top 10 honors.** Gibney is the fifth IUP men's cross country/track and field runner to earn PSAC Top 10 honors. And – Dan is the grandson of Patti and Jim Gibney!

## Keeping My Life in Perspective!

Well, here we are...we have reached the end of the first month in the year 2025! Have you already broken your New Year Resolutions? Have you made lists of your hopes and dreams for this new year? Planned your vacation? Are you even a planner, or do you take life as it comes and deal with it day by day?




I tend to do a little of both. I try to make sure I plan my time, I use it wisely...but then life happens and things come up that I haven't planned for! My schedule gets confusing as I fit things in that need taken care of that I hadn't planned...It can feel overwhelming. Why do I have so much that needs done? Why me?

Can you take a minute with me and think about what would happen if God felt overwhelmed? Let's face it...I think we keep Him pretty busy! There's so many of us...and He even knows the numbers of hairs on all our heads! He knows all the birds that fly, the fish that swim, the reptiles that crawl, all the animals that walk on this earth...He knows all the stars in the sky ...He has to bring the sun up in the morning and make sure it goes down in the evening. He hears every baby cry, He feels all of our heartbreak, all our pain, all of our joy! He is there with each of us, whether we ask Him or not...He has His eyes on us and He cares for us! He gave His life for us and all He asks in return is we accept His love for us and spread His love for us with others. He wants for all of us to spend eternity with Him in Paradise. And He does it all without ever feeling overwhelmed...He just patiently continues to love us through the hard times, the busy times and of course He shares our joy in the good times...

Suddenly I realize that I really don't have all that much to do...instead of feeling overwhelmed, I can rejoice in all my Savior has done for me! Instead of feeling overwhelmed, I can turn to Him and accept His help along the way. He is there for me and I pray that you know He is there for you!

Thank you, God, that I don't need to feel overwhelmed!



Month of February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	3 Dance	4	5 Clean Plate 5-7pm 	6 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	7 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	8 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
9 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am Souper Bowl of Caring 	10 Dance	11 Dance  Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	12	13 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	14 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm 	15  AA Meeting, 4:30pm
16 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	17 No Dance	18 Dance  Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	19 Session 7:00pm	20 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	21 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	22 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
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**Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church** Visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/slateridgechurch](http://www.facebook.com/slateridgechurch).  
 1630 Chestnut Street Visit our Website: [www.slateridgechurch](http://www.slateridgechurch)  
 Cardiff, MD 21160 410-451-5177  
 Visit our YouTube channel to Livestream or visit later: [www.youtube.com/slateridgechurch](http://www.youtube.com/slateridgechurch)



*God is not  
calling us to go  
go to church;  
he is calling us to  
be his church,  
the hope of the world.*

I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.  
 Ephesians 3: 17-18