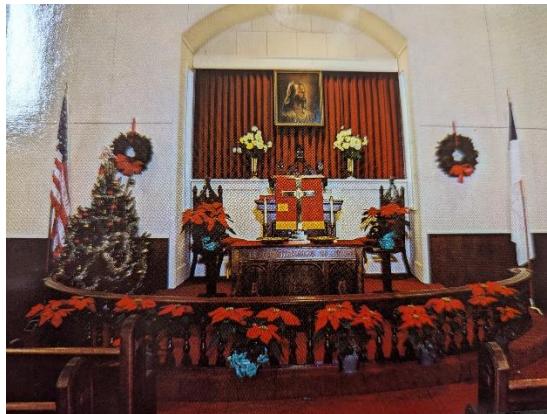


One Final Note to Close Out our Advent Season

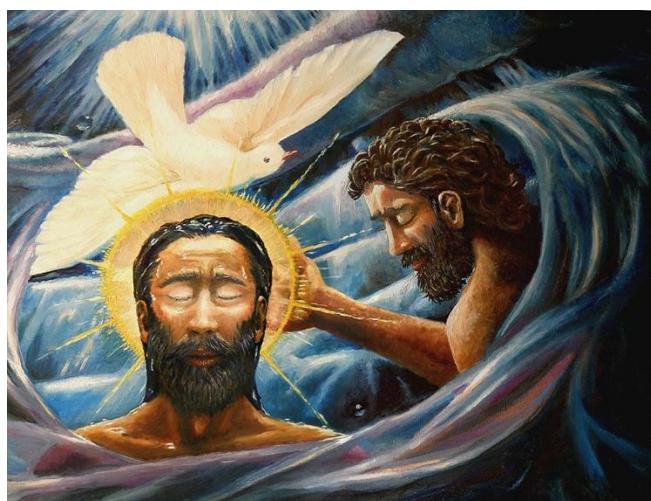


A longtime member of our church shared this image with me a little while back. It is the “old Black Creek UMC” all decorated for the Christmas Season. I used this photo in my Christmas Eve message, but I wanted to share it with all of you now.

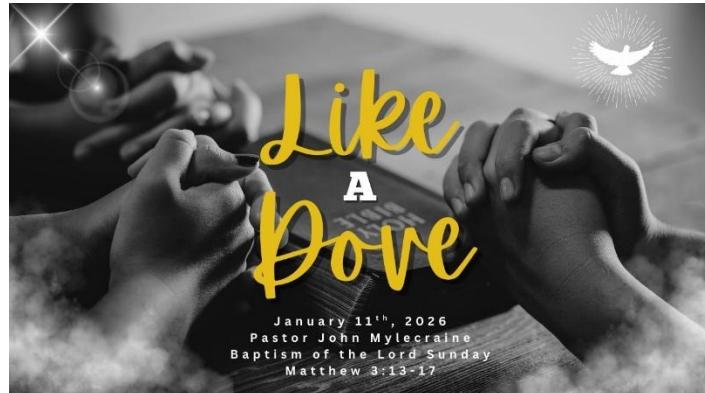
When I look at this picture, I can't help but feel truly honored to be a small part of the legacy of this awesome congregation. Thanks for a wonderful 2025 and here's looking ahead to an awesome new year serving God and loving our neighbors!

God Bless,
Pastor John

This Sunday at Black Creek UMC!



This Sunday we celebrate a special day. It is the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, a celebration and remembrance of Jesus Christ being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It is also a chance for us to remember our own baptisms, and our acceptance into the family of believers.



In our message this week, we celebrate that Christ chose to enter this messy world and to bear our burdens, all the way to the Cross. We also look at the role of the Holy Spirit in Christ's baptism, and the work the Spirit continues to do in our lives, even today!

There are **four** ways to participate in worship at Black Creek UMC. Our service begins at 9:30.

- In person – All are welcome, come as you are!
- On Facebook Live.
- Right at the top of our website, www.blackcreekumc.org
- Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel. Just go to YouTube and type in @backpewbelievers and our channel will come right up! Don't forget to subscribe for new updates.

Time to Put Away Advent...



My guess would be that many of you are putting away Christmas decorations at your homes this week... well... it is time to do the same thing at the church! We will be meeting this Saturday, **January 10th** at **9AM** to put our decorations away until next year. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Soup Sale



The Black Creek United Methodist Church Annual Homemade Soup Sale is on January 24th from 11AM – 1PM. Soup is \$11 per quart. Varieties include Ham and Bean, Beef Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Pepper, Chicken Corn, and Chili! To reserve soups for pickup, call 384-4087 and leave a message or email blackcreekumc158@gmail.com. Soups can be picked up at the church (158 Golf Course Road, Sugarloaf PA) on the 24th. All are handmade using our traditional church recipes!

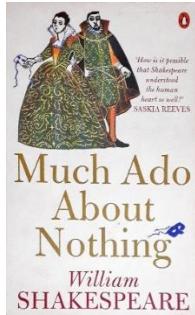
A Quick Apology



I just wanted to send out a quick apology to anyone who tried to watch our service on Facebook this past Sunday. For whatever reason, our streaming program stopped “talking to” Facebook for the morning. The issue has been resolved. The service is archived on our YouTube channel: @backpewbelievers if you would like to catch up. Ain’t technology grand...

Community Announcements

Information about Henry’s Play



The HASD Cougar Players will present William Shakespeare’s *Much Ado about Nothing* on Friday January 16th, Saturday January 17th, and Sunday January 18th. There is a 7PM show each night and there is also a matinee show on Sunday at 2PM. The performances take place at the Black Box Theater at the Hazleton Arts and Humanities High School in Drums. Advanced tickets are strongly encouraged. Adult tickets are \$15 and student tickets are \$10. To reserve tickets, just email hasdcougarplayers@gmail.com.

Messages that Were in Last Week's Bulletin

Liturgists and Ushers



Signup sheets for ushers / greeters and liturgists are now available for the 2026 church year! These positions are open to everyone in the church, and they are a great way to grow closer to God and one another. Please consider signing up for a month for one or both these important roles!

Here is an updated list of available months.

Liturgists: May, August, September, October, and December

Ushers: March, August, September, and November

Bulletin Prayer List



Pastor John is currently working to update our bulletin prayer list. If you know anyone who should be added, please email him at blackcreekpastor@gmail.com.

Looking for Church Committee Members



As we begin the new year, we are looking for volunteers to join some of the important **committees** at our church. We are hoping to add new members to our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, our Trustees, and our Finance Committee. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please see Pastor John!

Upcoming Church Council Meeting:



Our next Church Council meeting is January 14th at 6PM in our upstairs fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend!