



SECOND AVENUE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025
130 2ND AVE.
ALTOONA, PA 16602
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OFFICE@2NDAVECHURCH.ORG

Pastor's Letter

Church,

It is hard to believe that 2025 is drawing to a close. What a year it has been! God has been so good, so faithful, and so loving to us. It is my prayer for you that together we look back at everything that occurred and fondly remember God's goodness. The month of December is always a busy time. There are parties, shopping, decorating, cooking, traveling, and much more. It can be overwhelming! Let's take a breath. Perfection is not needed by any of us this Christmas. Our presence is what God desires, our family and friends need, and what will truly make this time of Advent and Christmas meaningful. My encouragement to you and I this time of year: don't hesitate to say no, find one day/opportunity to serve, do something special with your family, and make worship a priority this Advent season.

Our Advent sermon series will be: Fellowship Always. I want to be very clear this truly was a God thing as I planned the sermon series to touch our vision statement the year ended with Fellowship Always. Advent is a time of waiting for God but also celebrating that God has come to fellowship with us. This Advent season let us be grateful that God knows us, fellowships with us, sits with us in our pain, and rejoices with us in our joy. The name for God you will hear a lot coming from me is Emmanuel. I love that name for God! It is a Hebrew name for God meaning, God with us. God's presence, fellowship, and love are such great gifts that He freely gives us and let us celebrate that this Advent season. Make worship a priority. Invite a friend or family member to join you on Christmas Eve, and let us be fully present, breathe, and set realistic expectations for this Advent and Christmas season.

Blessings,

PB



Social Committee December Events

Sign up at the church to participate in these upcoming events!

Saturday, December 6th Spirit of Christmas Parade, 1 PM

Friday, December 12th Adults only, Ugly Sweater Party 6 PM

Saturday, December 13th Christmas Caroling @ Maybrook 2 PM

Wednesday, December 31st Family NYE Party 6 PM

Pastor's Notes

*The Iron Bridge Dinner Theater will be hosting a hilarious, heartfelt Christmas show at 2nd Ave 12/18, 12/19, and 12/20 titled Nuncrackers. You can order your ticket today by calling their box office, (814) 505-2551 (**please note, the building is not available for any usage 12/14-12/20**)*

Pastor Brian will host a Blue Christmas, a time of mourning and reflection for those who are struggling this time of year. The times and dates will be as follows: Monday 12/22 from 10 AM to 10:30 AM and that evening from 6 to 6:30 PM.

**Christmas Eve Services:
4:30 PM Traditional (organ)
7 PM Contemporary (band)
candle-lighting at both

Soup & Sandwich

Lunch

12/20/25 11:30-1

Food Pantry

12/26/25 11 AM

Text us!

833-768-9112



Get reminders, send prayer requests, ask questions and more (we will respond during office hours)

Staff:

Lead Pastor: Brian Sandell
Office Manager/Media: Jill Lang
Children's Ministry/ROCK:
Ashley Harclerode
Organist: Braydon Nihart
Praise Band: Jake Baskin,
Chris Ferguson
Musical Gifts: Gabriella Petraca
Youth: Nic Harclerode
Custodian: Tom Ardrey
Website: Andrew McNeal

*In Office Hours Mon.-Thurs.

8 AM-1 PM

*office general follows the AASD calendar (closed most bank holidays, etc.—closures will be in the bulletin, on Facebook, etc.)

Sunday Services:

8:15 AM Traditional

10:45 AM Contemporary

9:30 AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour

December Counters:

Priscilla Heidler

Larry Rupp

Winter Weather Reminder

A reminder that the church office and most events follow the AASD with weather-related delays & cancelations (if the AASD calls a virtual day, we will be closed). On Sundays, we ask you use your best judgment and always choose safety first. Sometimes the lots and walks take a little longer to get cleared and we would rather you stay safe and watch online!

Second Ave Kids

2nd Ave Kids have been working hard in junior church to practice for the Christmas Pageant. The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21st during the combined 10:00 AM service. All children in the pageant were sent home with a schedule, please let me know if you did not receive one of these as it has important information regarding times and when the children need to be here.

If you are interested in volunteering your time in any of our Children's Ministries, please reach out to me at ashleymiller1228@gmail.com.

-Ashley Harclerode, Children's Director

Youth Group

As 2025 comes to an end, we want to thank everyone for their support of Youth Group. We have grown a lot this year and that is because of all the support from the church.

Youth Group will be having their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14th from 6:00-7:30pm. After this there will be no youth group until Sunday, January 11, 2026.

-Nic Harclerode

The ROCK

Our ROCK Christmas will be held on Wednesday, December 10th. Envelopes have been placed in the sanctuary to help support the ROCK Christmas gifts. Christmas gifts are \$25 per child. After the Christmas party, ROCK will resume on January 7th.

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the year. We are excited to see what is in store for 2026!

-Ashley Harclerode, ROCK Director

Contact: Ashleymiller1228@gmail.com

Nursery

The nursery will be staffed December 7th & 14th; it will be open as a cry room Dec. 21st, 24th, 28th.

Combined Worship

We will have two combined services in December. 12/21 will be our annual 2nd Ave Kids Christmas Pageant during our 10 AM service. 12/28 will be a combined service as well, also at 10 AM (there will not be a potluck lunch). There will not be Sunday school or a staffed nursery these days.

Christmas Closure

The church office will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd and be closed until Monday, Jan. 5th. Emails will be checked for anything urgent, however phone messages will not be received until we are back in the office. Please contact Pastor Brian directly with emergencies only.