

# ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

*From Where It All Began*

*... Is Happening Again*

No. 117 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

November 2023

*Enjoy Our Beautiful Town During this Special Holiday Season*

## Holly Trail Tour, Festival of Lights & Santa on Dec. 2

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year with much preparation going into planning the activities we enjoy – purchasing gifts for family and friends, decorating the home (inside and out), planning parties, and preparing and cooking the Christmas meal.

Unfortunately for most, more time is spent preparing for (or complaining about) this holiday period than is actually spent enjoying its purpose and meaning. We spend much time preparing for friends and family, but then devote little time actually with them. One study revealed that on Christmas day, the average parent only spends nine minutes playing with their children.

### *Festivities get started early*

No matter how you spend your time preparing for Christmas, one thing is important to point out ... spend more time celebrating than preparing. We invite you to begin the Christmas celebration right here in your hometown.

The Orwigsburg Library, Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Association, local churches, area busi-



**SANTA IS SCHEDULED FOR AN EARLY VISIT**

nesses, the Orwigsburg Lions Club, and the Borough all join together to help our community welcome the Christmas season with the much-anticipated Orwigsburg Holly Trail Tour and the Festival of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2.

### *Brunch buffet starts the day*

Again this year, the Schuylkill Country Club, 877 West Market St. on the western edge of Orwigsburg Borough, will offer a delicious brunch buffet amidst its beautiful holiday decorations from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The cost for the brunch is \$20. Membership is not required; but, individuals need to make their own reservations by calling the SCC at 570-366-0622. Payment will be collected when making the reserva-

*– Continued on page 2*

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

**SAT., NOV. 25 TO SAT., DEC. 2**

### **Small Business Week – Shop Locally & Win!**

OABPA Business Members present a week-long Discovery Tour of Small Businesses during the first big week of Holiday Shopping! Specials & Prizes!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

### **10 a.m. to Noon – Breakfast Brunch**

Schuylkill Country Club; All welcome. Cost is \$20.

### **Noon to 4 p.m. – O’burg Library Holly Trail**

Indoor tour of area holiday-decorated homes. Ticket required; Purchase at Orwigsburg Library.

### **Holly Trail Basket & Wreath Raffles**

### **4:30 to 7 p.m. – OABPA Festival of Lights**

Orwigsburg’s Centre Square; BMHS musicians, caroling, program, refreshments, lighting of the downtown, Santa arrival, and horse-drawn trolley.

### **Christmas Cantatas • Concerts • Bazaars and Christmas Eve Church Services**

Throughout the Season; Details in Church Articles

## On the inside . .

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## 2023 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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### POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Patrick McBreen • Tanner Noecker

### STREET DEPARTMENT

Slade Bugajinsky • Daniela Hallick • Aaron Sweat

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

David Teter

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Sarah Celani • Kathi Mingle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Police Station Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Currently there are no unique COVID-19 precautions in place for public attendance at either of these meetings. The public is urged to exercise masking and social distancing as one's personal needs dictate.

### OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed in observance of the stated holidays in 2023 - Presidents Day, Feb. 20; Good Friday, April 7; Memorial Day, May 29; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 4; Veterans' Day, Nov. 10 (observed); Thanksgiving, Nov. 23 and 24; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 22 (observed) and 25; New Year's Eve and Day, Dec. 29 (observed) and Jan. 1, 2024.

## Season's Celebrations

- Continued from Page 1

tion. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased at the event for an additional cost.

### Orwigsburg Holly Trail

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library is excited once again to coordinate its afternoon Holly Trail of old (pre-pandemic) self-guided tour of homes and a business from 12 noon to 4 p.m. This year marks the 41st anniversary of this Orwigsburg area tradition in all of its sophisticated stature and seasonal glory.

Trail participants will be welcomed into homes for a tour of rooms decked out in holiday splendor and featured displays. Kimmels Church will once again open its doors to Trail participants as an extra "Tea and Cookies" stop, complete with Christmas décor, live music, and surprises from noon until 4 p.m.

Spectacular wreath creations will be displayed at Kimmels Church for bidding in a one-day Holly Trail Wreath Raffle. Winners will be drawn at the end of the day on Dec. 2.

Trail tickets are on sale now at the Library or online - \$30 per person (no matter the age of participant) if purchased through Friday, Dec. 1; \$35 when purchased the day of the Holly Trail.

### Festival of Lights on Centre Square

The Festival of Lights downtown celebration, coordinated by the Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Association (OABPA) will be featured from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The public is asked to gather "on the square" beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Blue Mountain High School Band musicians will perform with seasonal favorites as those present are welcomed. Carol singing and the joys of the holidays will fill Orwigsburg's Centre Square. Food and beverage refreshments will be available and the Orwigsburg Lions Club will once again provide free hot chocolate and cookies.

As tradition has it, a program message will remind us all why we celebrate December's holidays and be followed by the Orwigsburg's Lamplighter officially "lighting" the Community Christmas Tree and the many lighted shrubs, trees, and lamp posts on Centre Square, thus kicking off the holiday season.

Santa Claus has received a special invitation to make an early visit to Orwigsburg on this night. Orwigsburg Police and Fire Department will escort the "jolly one" into town and around Centre Square aboard a horse-drawn trolley. The trolley will then be available for free rides through the downtown area, loading near the M & T Bank at Centre Square and N. Warren St. So kids, plan to bring your Christmas "wish list" and plan to remind Santa how "good" you were this year.

The Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Association will conclude its "Shop Small" Passport Week - that began on Small Business Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend - by reminding residents and visitors to patronize our local businesses whenever possible throughout the year. OABPA will also present its 4th Quarter Membership Recognition award.

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# Orwigsburg Police Department

## From Our Archives: A Strange Incident on E. Mifflin St.

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on December 25, 2022, the Orwigsburg Police Department was dispatched to a residence on E. Mifflin St., responding to a break-in and entering report. Assisting in the response were units from Schuylkill Haven Borough, Penn State Schuylkill, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Further information provided via dispatch said the homeowner was in bed and could hear a clatter on the lawn. The Orwigsburg patrolman, arriving on scene, witnessed a sleigh and eight reindeer with a little old driver, so lively and quick. The suspect was identified as "good old Saint Nick."

Up to the house was the course that they flew, with the sleigh full of toys and St. Nick, too! Assisting units were ordered to turn around as down the chimney came St. Nick with a bound!

The homeowner claimed St. Nick committed burglary and wanted him arrested. Santa was promptly taken into custody by the demand of the homeowner, as he was to receive coal that Christmas morning.

Under PA law, the crime of burglary requires that a person enter a building with the intent to commit a crime. In this case, however, Santa Claus had no intent to commit a crime ... while in the house, he was simply doing his job to deliver presents. "Burglary" did not fit the circumstances.

However, this incident did present an interesting



(Police File Photo)

legal question. The potential crime Santa Claus may have committed was found under PA Title 18, section 3503(a)(1)(i) - Criminal Trespass, stating "A person commits an offense if, knowing that he is not licensed or privileged to do so, he: enters, gains entry by subterfuge or surreptitiously remains in any building or occupied structure or separately secured or occupied portion thereof."

The Orwigsburg officer called the Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office for guidance as to whether or not Santa committed the crime of Criminal Trespass. The legal question raised during the incident is "Did Santa believe he was licensed or privileged to enter the residence?"

Ultimately, it was decided Santa was invited into the residence by the very homeowner who wanted him arrested and was to get coal that morning. Due to the home having a Christmas tree, milk and cookies set out, and stockings hung by the chimney with care - it was determined the family hoped St. Nick would soon be there!

Santa was quickly released from custody by the Orwigsburg officer and allowed to continue on his way. The family did have presents under the tree; but, the person who called 911 received coal that Christmas morning.

In reviewing this incident and its legal ramifications, the Orwigsburg Police Department, along with the Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office, found that Santa Claus can't be arrested for any crime at all!

Since Santa is the leader of the North Pole and that the United States has established diplomatic relations with the North Pole, Santa Claus is considered a foreign dignitary and is subject to Title 22 of the United States Code Section 254 - otherwise known as the Diplomatic Relations Act of 1978.

Under this Act, the United States grants Santa Claus and all foreign dignitaries Diplomatic Immunity. Therefore, even if grandma gets run over by a reindeer, Santa can't be held criminally responsible.

A Mifflin Street neighbor, awakened by all the commotion that early morn, reported that Santa was heard to exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

- **Officer Robert Bechtel, Patrolman**  
(Of course, not a real police report)

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# Orwigsburg Historical Society

## Limited First Edition Redware Bowl w/ Fraktur Design

The Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) & Museum is celebrating its 30th year anniversary by commissioning a limited, first edition Redware Pottery handmade by Zettlemoyer Pottery, located in Hamburg. The unique bowl design is fashioned from the work of Orwigsburg's highly acclaimed fraktur artist, Johann Conrad Gilbert (1734-1812).

Gilbert lived in Orwigsburg and was a Lutheran schoolmaster who served in both Schuylkill and Berks counties. He is buried in the historic Zion's Red Church Cemetery.

It was during his tenure as a schoolmaster that Gilbert created the earliest Easter Bunny fraktur drawings. One such drawing is now in the collection at Winterthur Museum in Delaware; a second is in Williamsburg, VA. A very prolific fraktur artist, Gilbert created many birth and marriage certificates.

Nearly 65,000 immigrants from Germany settled in Pennsylvania during the period of 1727 to 1775, bringing the art of both fraktur and redware to America. The Pennsylvania Germans elevated this unique pottery from utilitarian household use to true works of art.



### Order this anniversary redware bowl

Today, Tammy Zettlemoyer, a 9th generation Pennsylvania German, carries on the tradition of making redware pottery. Her family immigrated to America in 1732 and she is honored to be able to keep redware alive for another generation. Zettlemoyer Pottery is lead-free, oven and food safe.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society 30th Anniversary limited-edition Redware Bowl with Fraktur Design taken from Johann Conrad Gilbert Fraktur Art measures 6-1/2 inches in diameter. All bowls will be hand-embossed on the reverse side with anniversary information, dates, the name of Johann Conrad Gilbert and also Zettlemoyer Pottery, and the number of the bowl.

Orders and check payment for this commemorative piece can be hand-delivered or mailed to Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum, 109 East Mifflin St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961. The museum is open on Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. Please indicate your name, mailing address, email address, phone number, and the quantity of bowls ordered. The cost of these limited first edition redware pottery bowls is \$24 each (\$23 for OHS members).

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## Think Fire Prevention During This Holiday Season

So, this is now the sixth article I've written for *Orwigsburg Happenings* since becoming Fire Chief ... two informational topics for this issue.

### **Protect your home and family**

Front and center, at all times, take steps to prevent a fire from occurring. Colder temperatures are already here; so, let's focus on your sources of heat.

Ensure that your heating equipment is properly cleaned and inspected on an annual basis.

Your heating source is the second leading cause of home fires and the third leading cause of home fire fatalities. According to recent statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an average of 46,000 home heating related fires occur each year. Those fires result in 480 deaths, 1350 injuries, and over a billion dollars in property damage.

The NFPA offers these tips as we enter the heating season:

- Heating equipment and chimneys should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters.



Scott Rarick

- Fireplaces should have a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
  - Ashes should be cool before placing them into a metal container and then taking it outside the home and storing/depositing the ashes at least 10 feet away from the structure.
  - All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
  - Make sure that you have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout your home and test them monthly to ensure that they are working properly.
- Additionally at this time of year, space heaters are most often responsible for home heating equipment fires and account for more than two-in-five fires and are the leading contributor in fire deaths.

- Make sure space heaters are in good working order and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- When purchasing, choose a space heater with a seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Turn off and unplug portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Ensure that your space heater has tip-over protection.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Plug them directly into an outlet; never use an extension cord.

## Happy Thanksgiving from All of Us

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## State Sen. David Argall

### Veterans of Sch. County

Every year on November 11, we honor the countless Americans who served in our armed forces by celebrating Veterans Day. Here in Orwigsburg, there's a permanent reminder of the impact our veterans have had in protecting and defending our country.

Thanks to the hard work of many members of the community, the renovated Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Hall serves as a perpetual monument to local heroes. It's always humbling to see the wall with over a thousand names of veterans, going back to the Revolutionary War, from our area.

The renovations could not have taken place without dedicated public-private partnerships between the Borough, the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce, U.S. Congressman Dan Meuser, former state Rep. Jerry Knowles, and many others.

For the past few years, the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce has hosted a Veterans Day breakfast at the hall, offering a free meal and recognition to those who served our country from the region. To all who served, thank you for your service and for the sacrifices you made in defense of our great nation.



Senator  
David Argall



# Orwigsburg Fire Department . . . by Chief Scott Rarick

## ***"Buggy" designed to be first on scene***

Secondly, I want to introduce you to the newest addition to our fleet of equipment. You may have noticed an SUV-type of vehicle and thought that it was the police.



Well, you're not necessarily wrong. Last year, the fire department took possession of a retired Orwigsburg Police Department vehicle - a

2016 Ford Explorer. This vehicle has been repurposed and continues to serve the residents of Orwigsburg and surrounding communities as a Duty Officer vehicle known as "The Buggy."

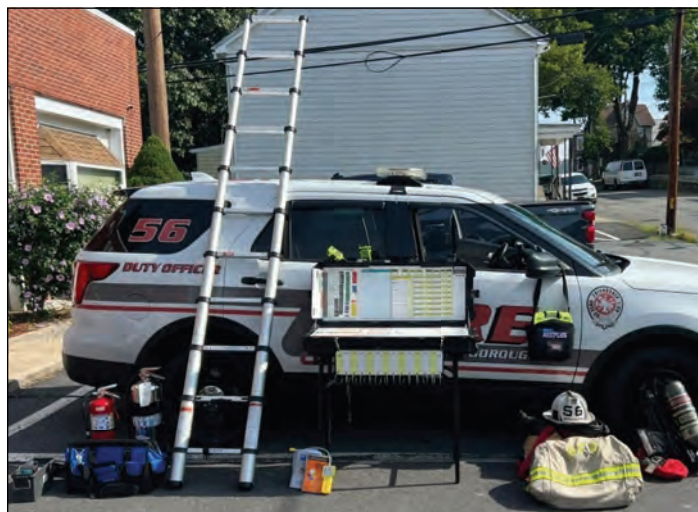
You may ask yourself, what is a Duty Officer vehicle? Well, the primary purpose is to function as a first-arriving unit with Incident Command capabilities. The intent is to arrive at the scene of an incident, perform an initial size-up, and establish Incident Command. The person that will typically operate the vehicle will be one of our officers within the fire department.

There is a variety of equipment stowed in the unit - an Incident Command board, dry chemical and

pressurized water extinguishers, automated external defibrillator (AED), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), collapsible ladder, toolbox, and other resource equipment. Our future plans will add additional equipment, such as a four-gas meter, thermal imaging camera (TIC), and a computer.

Thank you for reading this article and the support you give to our department and the work that we do. I wish all a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

*- Scott Rarick, Orwigsburg Fire Chief*



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# Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

## Marking 45 Years; Let's Keep the Good Times Rolling!

Time to think warm thoughts and cool ideas for the upcoming holiday season. Once again, the Orwigsburg Library will coordinate and host the Orwigsburg Holly Trail on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon until 4 p.m. What is old is new again:



**Ye Olde Holly Trail** celebrates its 41st annual event. It's a self-guided tour that will allow ticketholders the chance to wander through the greater Orwigsburg region with designated homes, businesses and churches opening their doors to promote goodwill and holiday cheer. All of this helps fund the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library programming and activities.

Tickets are on sale now at the Library, 216 W. Independence St., at \$30 per person when purchased in advance; \$40 per person when purchased the day of the event. Tickets come with a map and a list of the Holly Trail stops.

Most stops are kept a secret, known only to ticket-holders. But, the Library is happy to feature a new Holly Trail stop at Hawk Mt. Antiques, Breweriana and Collectibles, 214 E. Independence St., that will open its doors for the festivities. Kimmels Church will provide scrumptious tea and cookies to ticketholders throughout the Trail time frame, noon to 4 p.m.

### *Wreath and basket raffles*

Kimmels Church will again display beautiful holiday wreaths during the Holly Trail. Interested bidders can drop chances on their favorite in hopes of winning a raffle drawing for each at the end of the day.

Right now, the Library has a large selection of holiday-themed baskets. Stop in any time during regular hours now through the Holly Trail event on December 2. Drop your chances for the basket raffle drawing. Winners will be picked on Monday, Dec. 4.

### *So much to do at your Library*

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library is open 50 hours per week with services, events, activities, and programs to interest everyone in the community.

On Saturday, Nov 18, the Library will host a

## State Rep. Jamie Barton

### Serving Sch. County Seniors

The senior citizens of our Commonwealth have spent decades working hard in industries from agriculture to manufacturing, retail, and everything in between. They deserve the chance to enjoy a stress-free retirement. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. Rapid inflation has put a strain on seniors with fixed incomes.

While I can't change inflation, I can bring awareness of state resources that are available to help Schuylkill County seniors. I welcomed many to my Senior Expo held in Orwigsburg this past September.

Representatives from Pennie, Pennsylvania's official health coverage marketplace, offered ways to save money on health care costs. The Salvation Army shared info on its rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs. The county Assistance Office offered its many services, including the home heating assistance program known as LIHEAP. The state Treasury spoke of unclaimed property and the hundreds of millions of dollars that 10% of Pennsylvanians have waiting for them in the vault in Harrisburg.

It isn't only financial help that the state offers. The Schuylkill Transportation System showed seniors its shared ride program, bus routes and other helpful ways to get around. Thomas Pharmacy was there to give flu shots. The county Veterans Administration Clinic was on hand to talk about the many services offered to veterans. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Schuylkill County shared how attendees could get more involved in their community.

If you're curious about any of these resources, or have questions about other state-related issues, please don't hesitate to call my district offices in Tamaqua at 570-668-1240 or in Hamburg at 484-660-3721.



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## Orwigsburg Library

Romance Author Roundtable from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet the authors and ask questions about their books or the process of writing. Crocheters and knitters will gather on Saturday, Dec. 9 to work on projects and will assist new crafters from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Trivia events are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. It's family-friendly fun for everyone. Dress up in a themed costume to earn extra points. Wednesday, Nov. 22 will feature a Coal Country Boilo presentation and trivia contest; special start time is 5 p.m. Trivia on December 27 will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the movie "A Christmas Story."

These newest activities are all in addition to the regular Library favorites - Story Time on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Lapsit on Thursdays, also at 10:30; Play K on Fridays at 11 a.m.; Lego Club meets monthly on the first Saturday at 11 a.m.; Home School Happenings on the second Wednesday at 11 a.m.; and the list goes on.

Adults needing technology help can get it here at your Library; but, you need to schedule a time in advance. Help may be available on Mondays, between 2 and 6 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Your Library truly is more than books! Find out more on all of the above and lots more by following our Facebook page, our website [www.orwigsburglibrary.org](http://www.orwigsburglibrary.org), or even the Library's You Tube channel.

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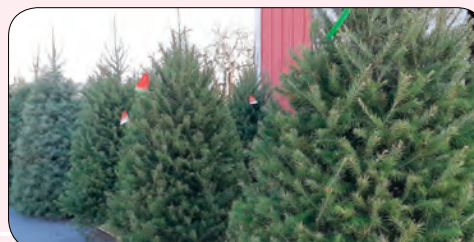
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# Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Assoc.

## Improving the Quality of Life & Business in Orwigsburg

The Orwigsburg Area Business & Professional Association has brought many spring, summer, and fall events to the community this year ... and a couple events ushering in the holiday season are yet to come.

Blessed with good weather, enthusiastic member participation, and strong community support, OABPA sponsored and coordinated June Jamboree, Farm-to-Square in August, and a festive Orwigsburg Heritage Day in September ... all with live entertainment, food and beverage choices, and a venue for business and home-based vendors.

### Community Farmers Market is a hit!

OABPA member Kris Sadler, owner of Market Street Coffee House, initiated and spearheaded the monthly **Community Farmers Market** featured from May through October. Producers of farm-related products were provided space on the M&T/Community Parking Lot free-of-charge and Orwigsburg area residents responded enthusiastically to having a convenient central location to buy baked goods and fresh produce.

With the success of the Farmers Market, benefitting both producer and consumer in its inaugural year, this positive service to all is sure to be at the top of OABPA's event list for 2024. We cannot thank Orwigsburg Borough, its employees, and M&T Bank enough for their help to make this happen.

*And, the Events keep on coming!*



**Support Our Small Businesses!**

"SHOP LOCAL" IS YOUR 1ST OPTION ALL YEAR LONG!  
But, OABPA urges you to celebrate our local economy this holiday shopping season. A weeklong "Discovery Tour" of OABPA members kicks off on Small Business Saturday (Nov. 25) and runs all the way to Orwigsburg Festival of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 2!

**Small Business Week (SBW) "Passport & Map"**  
Win Gift Cards & Prizes • Exclusive SBW Specials

Details? Follow Us: [facebook.com/TheOABPA](https://facebook.com/TheOABPA)

**Small Business Week**—Our community-wide "shop locally" promotion will kick-off on Small Business Saturday and will run through Festival of Lights – Nov. 25 to Dec. 2. Watch for posters and store flyers at OABPA member locations.

**Festival of Lights** – Mark your calendar for this one – the much-anticipated Festival of Lights. This year it will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on the always beautifully-lit Centre Square. We'll have food and refreshments, the lighting of the Square and the community Christmas tree, and welcome Santa Claus for an early visit to Orwigsburg. Enjoy a free horse-drawn trolley ride through the downtown as we celebrate the joys and goodwill of this holiday season.



**JOIN US FOR ORWIGSBURG FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
On Centre Square – 4:30 to 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 2**

Proudly Brought to You By  
**ORWIGSBURG AREA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Music By BMHS Musicians  
Caroling • Cookie Decorating  
Food Trucks • Refreshments  
Decorated Car Parade  
Festival of Lights Program

Traditional Lighting of Centre Square & Community Christmas Tree by the Lamplighter  
Official Early Arrival of Santa Claus to Orwigsburg  
Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides Around the Square

### Member Recognition Award

OABPA presented its third quarter 2023 Member Recognition Award to the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce in early October.



Accepting the award is Taskforce President Robert S. Carl, center front, flanked by OABPA board member Kris Sadler, front left, and Brenda Binns, president. Taskforce members attending are, back row from left, Jeannie Porter, Gary Reager, Kathy Wolfe, John Boyer, Ed Keyworth, and Kevin Richards.



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## *Join the Orwigsburg Senior Citizens*

Are you 55 years of age or older? Would you like to meet with others your age from the greater Orwigsburg area? The Orwigsburg Senior Citizens organization welcomed two new members this past year and looks forward to seeing you!

We meet twice per month - March through November - on the second and fourth Tuesday plus once in December in the Recreation Room of the Applewood Apartments on Applewood Circle, far southern end off South Washington St.

Two meetings remain this year - November 28 (Phil Orwig will be our speaker, telling us about Indiantown Gap) and our Christmas party will be held on December 12. Meetings start up again next year on March 12. We are always seeking new speakers and entertainers. If you are so inclined or know of someone, please contact Gerri Rae at 570-875-7829 or email [gerrae61@yahoo.com](mailto:gerrae61@yahoo.com).

The Orwigsburg Senior Citizens wishes all a happy Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and all the other holidays.

## *Trash/recycling during the holidays*

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays, meaning collection days will be altered.

Thanksgiving on Nov. 23 will delay usual Friday collection by one day to Saturday, Nov. 25. Christmas

and New Years days both fall on a Monday this year. Both pick-up areas of Orwigsburg Borough will be affected both of these weeks - regular Tuesday collection will be delayed to Wednesday; normal Friday collection will be delayed until Saturday.

## *Getting the word out*

We use the Borough website [Orwigsburg.gov](http://Orwigsburg.gov) as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.

The website lists borough meeting schedules with all public documents regarding agenda items posted no later than 12 noon on the meeting day. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body. The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view.

Numerous forms can be accessed, including applications for Albright's Woods usage. Trash day pickup changes will also be posted.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's **Rave Mobile Safety** emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and email of emergencies in a prompt manner.



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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., sends greetings to everyone for a healthy and meaningful holiday season. We always welcome new faces to join us in worship any Sunday at 10 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Our service can also be viewed on Facebook and the church website at [stjohnorwigsburg.org](http://stjohnorwigsburg.org). For additional information, call the office at 570-366-2255. Leave a message if not answered.

Pastor Jeff Johnson's Facebook devotional every Tuesday afternoon and Facebook "thought for the day" on Thursday mornings are meaningful to many in our community. Pastor Jeff also leads an in-person, or Zoom Bible study every Wednesday in the church conference room from 2 to 3 p.m. The New Testament is presently being studied. He welcomes your thoughts and comments.

Sunday school classes, for children ages kindergarten through 6th grade, meet during part of the worship service each Sunday. All children are welcome.

A Thanksgiving service with St. John's, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Salem churches will be held Sunday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's, 215 N. Warren St.

The choirs of St. John's and Hamburg Community



Seventh-Day Adventist Church will present a cantata on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. at St. John's. Join us for a beautiful morning of worship in song.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. This service is a beautiful candlelight service based with lessons and carols.

Eight area churches sponsor the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, housed at St. John's. Many local civic and school groups help with food collections and distribution. Monthly distribution is by "drive through only" on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. We ask that cars line up on Stephen and Wayne streets. Volunteers will place groceries into trunks of cars. Donations of non-perishables are always welcome and can be dropped off at the church office, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are always needed to help pack groceries. Please phone 570-366-3867 with questions regarding the pantry and for any offering of help.

The Interfaith Health Ministry, working to assist food insecurity, meets at St. John's on a regular basis. This group is open to new ideas how to provide nourishing food to anyone needing assistance.

Beginning in January 2024, three Orwigsburg churches within the Borough - St. John's, St. Paul's Lutheran and Salem United Methodist, will work together on programs about God's creation. Dates and locations will be announced via Facebook, church websites and the Orwigsburg web page.



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## St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255

*Spirit filled worship for contemporary souls*

**Worship 10 a.m. Every Sunday**

**Community Thanksgiving Service – Sun., Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.**  
(Held at St. Paul's Lutheran, 215 N. Warren St.)

**Christmas Cantata**  
**Sunday, Dec. 17 – 10 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Sunday, Dec. 24 – 8 p.m.**

**Engineering Clubs**  
Grades 7 thru 12 • Legos - Grades 1 thru 6

**Online Worship Services at**  
**[StJohnOrwigsburg.org](http://StJohnOrwigsburg.org)**  
Check our Facebook page, website, or church sign for information.



# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. John's is proud to sponsor area Cub Scouts, a senior exercise program, and many community health-sponsored activities via Diakon.

An engineering club, for students in 7th through 12th grades, and a Lego Club for youngsters in first through 6th grade, are held on Saturdays at St. John's. The Engineering Club is presently building a robot for competition with other engineering clubs. Phone 272-224-1285 if there is interest and with any questions about either of these clubs.

## St. Paul's Lutheran

Members and friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 215 North Warren Street, welcome everyone to join them in praising God, serving our neighbors, and sharing the love of Christ as part of a growing community of faith. We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich history and tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. We not only treasure our past, but we also strive to work together towards a bright and productive future.



We gather for worship at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Holy Communion is shared on the first Saturday of the month and at each Sunday service. We welcome everyone to share in our worship and fellowship.

Sunday School is available every second Sunday of the month. Teens, ages 11 to 18, are invited to take part in our teen program at 9:15 a.m. Children, one through 10 years of age, are welcome to listen to Bible stories, have fun, share fellowship, and enjoy a snack during the 10:30 a.m. service. For more information, contact Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522.

Our Adult Forum is our adult Bible study group. Members meet every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. to discuss books that focus on the Bible, our Lutheran history and tradition, and other matters of faith. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining this group.

Our congregation will host a Community Thanksgiving "Eve" service at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. Pastors and choir members from St. Paul's, St. John's United Church of Christ, and Salem United Methodist Church will participate in this service. All throughout the community are invited!

Our "Second Sunday" Sunday School will hold its first No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 10. Let's look at the birth of our Lord through the eyes of our young people. We welcome all children and teens to participate. Contact Sarah Eger for more information.

Our annual Christmas Concert, featuring our Chancel and Handbell Choirs, returns on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be shared following the concert. Everyone is invited!

- Continued on page 16

## Salem Church Orwigsburg, PA



1824-2024  
"Still walking with Jesus"

**Thursday Night Dinner Church in Salem's Hall**  
5:30 PM Meal - 6 PM Service - FREE  
November 16 and December 7, 14 and 21

### Holiday Services at Salem

Dec. 10 - Handbell Service - 10 AM - Sanctuary  
Dec. 17 - Meal and Movie - 6 PM Sandherr Hall  
Dec. 21 - Dinner Church - 5:30 PM Sandherr Hall  
**Dec. 24 -**  
9 AM Brunch - Sandherr Hall  
10 AM Sunday Service - Sanctuary  
4 PM Christmas Eve Family Service - Sanctuary  
7 PM Traditional Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

133. S. Liberty St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
[www.SalemUM.com](http://www.SalemUM.com) - 570.366.0201

## FAITH CHURCH

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**Sunday 10 a.m.**

**[www.atfaithchurch.com](http://www.atfaithchurch.com)**



# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 15

On Sunday, Dec. 24, our congregation will worship together at a single 9:30 a.m. worship service. Later that day, we will gather to celebrate Christmas Eve with candle lighting and carols at both 5 and 9 p.m. Holy Communion will also be shared at each service. Once again, we welcome everyone to attend!

Next year's Super Bowl Eve on Saturday, Feb. 10 will feature the Men of St. Paul's sharing good food with our community. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the square" at the M&T Community Lot, they will sell great chili, delicious homemade soups, tasty breads, and baked goods. Please come early for the best selection. Money raised from this event will benefit community projects.

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14, we will observe Ash Wednesday with a special worship service that features the imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion. All are welcome!

Due to the likelihood of inclement weather during the fall and winter months, please check our Facebook page, website, or call our office for changes to our weekend worship services and/or scheduled events.

Our regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. You can contact the Rev. Michael T. Petresky or our church staff at 570-366-2316. Leave a message if our office is closed when you call.

We encourage everyone to support our Community Food Pantry, housed at St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St. Let us help feed our hungry neighbors!

Check out our Facebook page, website, or YouTube to watch our online videos or for more information about upcoming events or activities.

Come and see. Share our work and our worship. Join us as together we follow Christ!

## Salem UMC

Originally founded as an evangelical church in 1824, Salem United Methodist Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2024. With this benchmark celebration, exciting times lie ahead here at Salem.

Our first international pastor, the Rev. Dr. ShinAe Kim is expected to arrive in mid-November and an installation service for the Rev. Kim prior to Christmas.

In addition to welcoming its new pastor, Salem has added a weeknight service to its schedule. Begun as an experiment in the fall of 2022, the thoroughly enjoyed and praised Thursday Night Dinner Church will now be a regular worship service at Salem. Services are scheduled for the first three Thursdays



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg

Office: 570-366-2316

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

*Our worship space is handicap accessible and comfortable*

### Worship Times

Saturdays - 5:30 p.m.

Sundays - 8 and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion shared the first Saturday and every Sunday.*



## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

### COMMUNITY THANSIVING "EVE" SERVICE

Sunday, November 19 - 4 p.m.

### NO REHEARSAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 10 - 10:30 a.m.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT - SUN., DEC. 17

4 p.m. - Featuring St. Paul's Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - SUN., DEC. 24

5 and 9 p.m. - Candle Lighting & Holy Communion Each Service

### SUPER BOWL EVE CHILI & SOUP SALE

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. "On the Square"

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP - WED., FEB. 14 - 7 P.M.

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Watch our worship on YouTube;  
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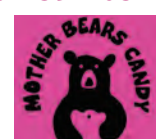


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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

each month through December, then take a break through January, and resume again in February.

Under the leadership of lay members, this service is held in Salem's Sandherr Hall. It begins with a meal at 5:30 p.m. with live music, prayer and a short message following at 6 p.m. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers, but the service is designed to accommodate children of all ages as family groups gather around the dinner tables. Dinner Church joins Salem's Sunday night "Meal and a Movie" program as an open-door gathering for members, friends, and neighbors throughout the community.

Meal and a Movie services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month and consist of a faith-based film and light supper. Like all of Salem's services, these events are free and open to the public.

Salem's outreach ministry - "Eat, Pray ... Color!" - continues on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 till noon at The Cake Pros bakery and coffee shop in Schuylkill Haven, where the coffee and scripture coloring pages are always free.

Another first for Salem this year will be a Community Art and Craft Fair, to be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 25, in conjunction with "Shop Small Saturday." Original arts and crafts will be displayed for sale by local artisans and brunch-fare eats will be served by Salem's United Women of Faith (UWF). Proceeds from the food sales will help support Salem's 2024 end-of-summer free Community Block Party. A craft auction will support the church's 200th anniversary events.

Additional UWF fundraisers this fall and winter include apple dumplings and pot pie sales on Saturday mornings in November and a holiday bake

sale on Saturday, Dec. 16, all from 10 a.m. to noon. Salem's famous Soup Sale, benefitting the block party, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 9 to noon.

Girl Scout Troup #32727 meets on Sunday afternoons in Sandherr Hall. This year the girls will be taking part in the Wreaths Across America program in Orwigsburg, participating in a special ceremony at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall and laying wreaths on the graves of Revolutionary War veterans in Salem's cemetery.

Salem is - and always has been - a neighborhood church. Holding free events throughout the year for the community, Salem's most recent event was the "Backyard Boo," where the love of Jesus was shown in the bright and twinkling lights. Held in the backyard of Salem's office building, the church provided a festive viewing area, free hotdogs, drinks and snacks for the neighborhood during Orwigsburg's Halloween parade on October 18.

Salem UMC is located at 133 S. Liberty St. "where Liberty and Independence meet." Contact us at [office@SalemUm.com](mailto:office@SalemUm.com) for more information about Salem Church and Girl Scout activities.

## Faith Church

Hello, I'm Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell. Welcome to Faith Church, 1168 Centre Turnpike, just outside Orwigsburg Borough. I can't believe we are entering

- Continued on page 18

## SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of **Orwigsburg Happenings**? We welcome community service and non-profit organization information. Please contact Kathi Mengle at 570-366-3103 or [kmengle@orwigsburg.gov](mailto:kmengle@orwigsburg.gov).

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**159 East Adamsdale Road • Orwigsburg**  
*(Meeting in the Pioneer Evergreen Banquet Hall)*

# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 17

another fall-to-winter time of year.

But, one thing I've learned is that Pennsylvania does not have a time when it isn't pretty outside. I get it; it will become cold, but it is still pretty. And I have to say the Orwigsburg area is one of the prettiest areas in our state. We are blessed to live here.



I am also excited with what is happening at Faith Church. We are just finishing up our fall campaign - "Created to Dream." This is a time

when our entire church focuses on the same study, based on our Sunday messages. It's a great time as all come together concentrating, listening, and learning on the series at hand. We have done this in the fall for as long as our church has existed.

Faith is pleased to update the tremendous success of our new ministry Emotional Wellness group that is working to help folks struggling with emotional issues in their lives. We are currently in website development where people, one's self or affected family members will be able to access help to navigate the difficulties when getting or seeking help from mental illness, suicide or any emotional issue.

Later this year, we will launch a new "Divorce Care" ministry connected with the popular "Grief Share" program. We are simply trying to follow Jesus Christ's instruction to help the hurting.

We love you at Faith Church and we just want to build God's kingdom. We are imperfect people in an imperfect world, so there will be struggles and trouble. But God still loves us, and works with us, on our mistake-ridden lives. He helps us begin again, start over, and get a fresh start, each time.

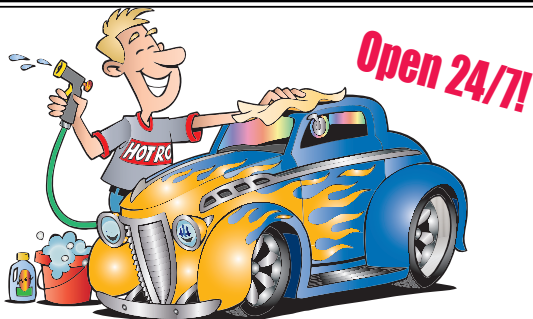
We would love for you to stop in at Faith and be a part of our Celebration Services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Check our website [atfaithchurch.com](http://atfaithchurch.com) or stop in to one of our weekly group meetings. Everyone is always welcome at Faith.

## Amazing Grace Baptist Church

Have you sensed the urge to escape the pressure and pessimism of life? Have you ever searched for an opportunity to soak in the blessings from the Lord?

Our Thanksgiving "Pie and Praise" service at Amazing Grace Baptist Church is the perfect occasion to do just that. It is the most delicious and encouraging service of the year. Everyone brings a pie or fall dessert to share. After feasting on the pie, we sing songs of praise and share testimonies of the Lord's goodness. The Pie and Praise service is Sunday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. Come ready to praise the Lord!

Amazing Grace Baptist Church will also hold Christmas-themed evangelistic services, Sunday, Dec. 10 through Wednesday, Dec. 13 with evangelist Ken Lynch. Check your mailbox for invitations with specific times and details.



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**Holly Trail**  
December 2 - noon

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Worship Service - 10 am  
Candlelit Service - 6:30 pm

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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Brother Lynch is an encouraging person, a challenging speaker, and a talented musician. God has blessed him with the ability to play several instruments, including the musical glasses (crystal glasses filled with water to make music). The final night of services (Dec. 13) will feature a full Christmas concert. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

What is the significance of the Christmas season? Why was Jesus born? Why did Jesus die on the cross? And what does that mean for me? These are important questions that require answers.

The Bible teaches that Jesus was born so that He could die on the cross. Jesus is the only person to ever lead a perfect, sinless life. As such, He is the only one qualified to pay the penalty for sin. Jesus shed His blood on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. All He asks in return is that you trust Him instead of your own works. Make a decision today to put your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation.

## New Awakening Church

We're counting down the weeks until the holiday season. It's a time to reflect on what we're thankful for and on what we've been given. It's also a time of questioning as we look ahead into the coming new year.

Where do you go with those questions that don't yet have answers? They're welcome at New Awakening. After all, God invites us to ask big ques-

tions and reflect on life and truth. We'd love to do that together. Come join us so that we can pray for you and encourage you on your journey.

New Awakening began with a vision to create a space where you could encounter God's love, realize His purpose for your life, and delight in who you were created to be. In short, it would be a place of love, truth, and new beginnings. We're not perfect people, but we really want you to know that you matter and that you're valued by God.



Service is every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at the Schuylkill Racquet Club just outside Orwigsburg (25 S Greenview Rd). Or you can join us online at [facebook.com/newawakeningchurch](https://www.facebook.com/newawakeningchurch). Check us out at [www.newawakeningchurch.com](http://www.newawakeningchurch.com) for more information.

You can also connect and meet some new faces during one of our mid-week group gatherings. In addition to a prayer night and Bible study, we have a men's fellowship, a women's fellowship, a youth group, and a fellowship for moms and school-aged children. We're a church that thrives on faith, laughter, honest conversation, and earnest prayer. Everyone is welcome. We would love to meet you.

Need a place to go for Christmas? Celebrate with us on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. for our special service at the Racquet Club.

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*A Friendly & Historic Community . . . Serving Its Residents • Welcoming Its Visitors*

## 2023 Remaining Holiday Schedule

*Orwigsburg Borough Offices and Operations  
will be closed the following days*

Thursday - November 23rd  
Friday - November 24th | Thanksgiving  
Friday - December 22nd  
Monday - December 25th | Christmas  
Friday - December 29th  
Monday - January 1st, 2024 | New Year's Eve (observed) & Day

*We wish you and your families a very safe and  
happy holiday season and look forward to a  
great new year of serving you.*

