

## ◁ *Happenings at Hope Church* ▷

+ **Coffee hour/Sunday Luncheon:** There is a sign-up list on the whiteboard in the parish house kitchen for those who want to provide lunch. The entire year is listed on the sign-up pages. The last Sunday of the month is a Pot Luck, so plan to bring your favorite dish!

+ **Christmas Flower Donations:** If you would like to make a donation for Christmas Poinsettias, you may do so via the offering plate or use the online giving QR code in your bulletin or the flower donation form. Make sure to note who your donation is in memory or in honor of on the form so it may be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Forms may be picked up from the table in the back of the church. *Flower donations are due no later than December 10<sup>th</sup>.*

+ **Food Bank Donations:** This month's food drive theme is the Reverse Advent Calendar. If you don't have a copy, you may pick one up from the table in the back of the church. It's not too late to start!

+ **Stockings for Manheim Teen Central:** Once again, we will be stuffing beautiful stockings, made by our Yarn Ministry, for Manheim Teen Central. You may choose one (or more) of the stockings hung around the Parish House and take it home to fill with goodies for a student. Filled stockings should not exceed \$20 in value so that all students receive a similar blessing. Suggestions include: candy, mugs, lotions, snacks, craft, spa or sports supplies or other trinkets appropriate for middle or high school age students. Stockings can be gender neutral or boy/girl specific. Please label the donated stocking (for ex: "middle school girl", "high school unisex", etc) so they can make sure each student gets a stocking they will love. Stockings should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

+ **Greening the Church:** Our yearly "Greening of the Church" is scheduled for Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM, which falls on the Monday prior to the Blue Christmas Service. We will have a light brunch and sing some Advent Carols

+ **Blue Christmas:** For some, Christmas can be a painful, difficult, and lonely time of year because of the recent loss of a loved one or painful memories. The Liturgy of the Longest Night, also known as "Blue Christmas," is symbolically held around the Winter Solstice. This service creates a sacred space to lift up our grief and lament to God as we wait together in hope and longing for the Eternal Word Made Flesh to be born anew in our weary hearts and world. Please join us for this special combined service with our friends and colleagues in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. Mark your calendars for our Blue Christmas service on **Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

+ **Christmas Eve Service:** Join us for our Traditional Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. During the service there will be a special Children's Message and candle lighting. Following the service, we will gather for cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish House.

+ **Yarn Ministry of Hope:** Attention all knitters, crocheters, and other purveyors of yarn and string! The next meeting of the Yarn Ministry of Hope is scheduled for Monday, January 6th at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Deacon Nancy at [nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org).

## *Mark your Calendars!*

- 12/6 St Lucy's Day Service - 6:30 PM
- 12/10 Christmas Flower Donations Due
- 12/16 Greening the Church - 10:30 AM
- 12/19 Blue Christmas Service - 6:30 PM
- 12/24 Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Children's Sermon - 7:00 PM  
Cookie and Hot Cocoa Fellowship (*following the service*)
- 12/25 Merry Christmas
- 12/29 Pot-Luck Sunday
- 1/6 Yarn Ministry Meeting