



Jackson Street Baptist Church  
1206 Jackson Street  
Scranton, PA 18504  
Phone: 570-346-1674

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Scranton, PA  
Permit No. 55

# The High Spire

“A Going Church For A Coming Lord”

November 2019 – 12th Edition

**Please update your address and phone numbers with the church office.**

## Sunday Service 10:00 AM

**Church Office (570) 346-1674, Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Pastor Elliott is available for individual or couples counseling sessions all day Monday & Thursday, or Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons.**

**Pastor Elliott Cooke – Cell phone # 201-669-9040**

**Pastor's Email - [elliottc2@verizon.net](mailto:elliottc2@verizon.net)**

**Church E-mail – [Jackson1206@verizon.net](mailto:Jackson1206@verizon.net)**

[www.jacksonstreetbaptistchurch.org](http://www.jacksonstreetbaptistchurch.org)

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# **LET HIM BE MAGNIFIED**

*Written and Submitted by Lori Saar Dunham*

I love a good story. A true story is even better. One of my favorite true stories is that of missionary Corrie Ten Boom. During World War II she and her family were imprisoned at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp for helping Jews escape the Nazi regime. She and her sister Betsy, along with many others, were thrown into a dirty, overcrowded, flea infested barracks. Overcome by their living situation, Corrie cried desperately to Betsy, unsure of how to go on. Betsy recalled a Scripture they had read that morning from their smuggled Bible, “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Betsy exclaimed, “we should be thankful for the fleas.” Corrie thought it near impossible to give thanks for fleas, but she was faithful and did so. They searched for things to be thankful for in that wretched situation....being together, the warmth of all their bodies so close together, their smuggled Bible, and the list went on. Seems impossible, right? To thank God for fleas????

On days when you feel like your feet are being held to the flame, how does one go about thanking God for the fleas in your life? Having recently walked through days where clouds hung heavy and it was difficult to see the sunshine, I’d say some days are harder than others to stop and give thanks. Some days you have to be very intentional. Some days you have to search hard and dig deep. Some days it’s a sacrifice to bring an offering of thanks to God. But it’s on those days, that this thankfulness alters our eyesight and we catch a glimpse of God at work. Our thankfulness brings glory and honor to Him who holds all things together, giving hope for this world and the next.

“Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.” Psalm 107:22

Weeks later Betsy returned to the barracks elated. She explained to Corrie that after an interaction with the guards she realized why the guards never bothered to visit their barracks, leaving the women with enough freedom to hold Bible Study, read Scripture, and sing hymns together. It was because of the fleas. The guards knew that their Unit was so infested with fleas that they would never enter their barracks. Never had they been so thankful for the fleas!!!!

So, on the days when you need to dig deep in the dirt of this life to find something to be thankful for, may the Lord help you recognize the purpose of the fleas. And until He does so, may we trust Him enough that He will carry us through.

“I will praise God’s name in song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.” Psalm 69:30

## **A lot is happening at Jackson Street! What Have You Missed?**

We enjoyed a terrific weekend with Niah and Allisha Merrill September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We began the weekend with a great personal concert during our monthly church social, which of course had terrific food and fun for the night as well as the entertainment of the Merrill’s. Then on Sunday we again enjoyed the music and Word shared with us during our morning worship service with Niah and Allisha. If you were able to join us either of these two days, I think you would agree you had a wonderful time and left feeling blessed to have been there.



## **Friend Day!!**

Don’t forget to invite your friends to join us at church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM for Friend Day! Please help yourself to the Friend Day invitation cards available throughout the church building to invite others to church! September’s Friend Day is a very special Grandparents day, so why not ask the kids and grandkids to come to church with you!

## Youth Group

Youth Group started up again on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour after morning worship service. Any kids interested in joining in are welcome to come upstairs above the church office, we meet in the teen room 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the right. The Youth Group went to **Reverb Binghamton 2019** at the Greater Binghamton Sports Complex (The Dome) November 15th and 16<sup>th</sup>. This was an all-night event for 6-12th grade, packed with a pro sports game, life-changing message, intense games, eye-popping prizes, and great food, until early in the morning. Three of our kids who attended this event made the decision to come to Christ!



## The Keystone Mission Meal Ministry Team

Our Keystone Meal Ministry team has been working throughout the summer months to supply bag lunches the first Friday of each month. We have now supplied hot meals to approximately 50 individuals who came to the Mission. Those people had a warm dry place to eat as well as a message from the pastor and interaction with caring people. If you would like to take part in this outreach ministry, please call the church office or talk to Ann Marie Mapp to be included in the meeting for scheduling this outreach.



Some of the men of the church have been meeting once a month to get together to have breakfast while discussing life. Any men who would like to join them are welcome. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Rich's Restaurant, 1000 Keyser Ave., Taylor at 9:00 AM

**Quarterly Budget Update**  
Budget Required \$59,550.00  
Receipts Acquired \$37,261.67  
Shortfall - \$22,288.33

## From the Pastor

Do you sing in the shower??? Even if you normally don't, this must be a tempting season for you!!! The words to Christmas carols are so familiar and we hear them everywhere. Even in places where the Bible or Gospel message is not welcome, these songs of Faith break through. They bring smiles to people's faces. They minister to our hearts and the hearts of many. God created us this way and we learn something in God's Word about why He created us like this.

Colossians 3:16 says "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and Spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Paul is encouraging us to let the Word Christ live inside of us to such a great extent that it spills out 3 ways: Through teaching, admonishing and through singing. You might read this verse and think that teaching and admonishing are the ministry of God's Word and that singing is a ministry of encouragement or worship, but that is not what Paul is saying, nor is it the Biblical view of singing.

In Psalm 40:30 we read: "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord". ...Singing is just another way of proclaiming the truth. So why not enjoy the Christmas season and join in the chorus. Throughout this season and every season...sing out the message of redemption to the world!

*Pastor Elliott*

# CHOIR NEWS

My dear friends: I will be RETIRING as your Organist/Choir Director following completion of the morning service on Sunday, December 29, 2019. By no means was this an easy decision, but one I feel is necessary at this time of my life. My music lesson's began at age three. For the last 63 years I have shared my love of music through my Music Ministry, with more than half of it having been spent at JSBC.

I've so enjoyed my stay at JSBC, and the love and support always extended by so wonderful a congregation and clergy. Without a doubt, we are blessed with a superb choir of the most talented and faithful people I have ever had the pleasure of working for and with. We've always taken pride in singing exceptional music. The choir love their Lord and receive such joy in singing His praises.

I most surely will miss all of you greatly and cherish our time together.

Do know how very much you have enriched my life. I will never forget you and, as I've said many times, you will, always, remain in my heart as my "second family."

May God continue to richly bless JSBC.



## TRUDY J HOFFMAN

### Organist Trudy Hoffman Retires

It was 1987, and gas cost .95, Ronald Reagan was president, Zac Efron was born, the Nintendo entertainment system was yet to be released, the Twins were World Series Champions, Andy Warhol died, Star Trek Next Generation debuted, Toby Mac was singing with DC Talk, and most importantly, Robert Redford was working on the movie "The Milagro Beanfield War." In that same year Trudy Hoffman came to Jackson Street Baptist Church to be the Interim Organist/Choir Director serving under Pastor Baglow. Trudy's first hymn was "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah." Eventually the Interim designation was dropped, as Trudy became a mainstay at our church organ for 32 years. Thank you, Trudy, for your service to the Lord and for your many contributions to the ministry here with us. You are much beloved and will be missed after you retire and perform your last official duties here on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

A search committee has been formed by the Deacons comprised of Lou Saar (music committee/choir), Ed Mazzei (choir), Eddie Watson (choir), Patty Lowe, Jennifer Suprick-Phillips, Peg Bailey, and Lou DeRobertis. Please be in prayer as they search for and select a candidate to present to the Deacon board to fill the vacant position. Lord willing, we could have someone officially in place in January.

As you can imagine, the selection of the direction of our music ministries is a tremendous responsibility and is potentially troublesome, as musical tastes and styles are varied and subjective. One thing you can be sure of is that the committee and Board will do their due diligence and their very best to take every aspect of this opportunity into consideration before choosing a candidate. We pray the end result will be of the Lord's doing and for His glory. As we spend the last couple of months appreciating Trudy for her service, let us also look forward with great anticipation to the next chapter in the musical ministry of our church. Let us continue in unity, love, and support for one another as God directs the future of this element of our worship. To Him be the glory forever.

Pastor Elliott

# Upcoming Events

## Church Directory Photo Shoot



Universal Church Consultants will be working with us to produce a new church directory. December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday/Wednesday from 2-8:30 pm). Secure your time slot for a sitting at [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on schedule on the right side and enter code pa869 and password photo to sign up. Every family that participates will receive an 8X10 photo, a color pictorial directory, access to an online app version of the directory as well as an opportunity to purchase photos for Christmas gifts. There is no cost to participate. Submission of pictures from church activities would be very appreciated

## Advent and Christmas

Advent season begins Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. As we celebrate this season of reflection and anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus, we hope you will join us here at church at 10:00 am. As is our tradition at JSBC families and individuals who sign up may light the Advent Candles on the Advent Wreath each week. This is a special time during the season that many recalls as a wonderful experience for their family to share in.

## Special Services for the Christmas Season

Christmas Concert with Choir and Brass – December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Children's Christmas Program – December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM

Church Christmas Social – December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 PM

## “Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch”



Get you cowboy hats and boots and join the children as they celebrate the Coming of the Savior at Bethlehem Gulch Ranch. The children will delight you in word and song as they share the message Christ’s birth and reveal the best Christmas gift you can give. Following the program, the children will be treated to a birthday celebration for Jesus in the church social room!

We hope you will join us and support our children in the church December 15<sup>th</sup>!!



## Young At Heart

The Young at Heart group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month. We gather with others in and outside of our church family ages 55 and up. Come join us, bring a sandwich, dessert and hot drinks are provided each month.

The Young At Heart Christmas Party is December 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon at Cooper's Seafood House, entertainment will be:

## Anthony Giovanni Mercuri



Gino is the grandson of our own Deacon Anthony “Doc” Mercuri, Jr. and a high school sophomore from Lackawanna County. He is a local 15-year-old that was recently crowned the best Elvis impersonator in the country among kids his age.

A Clarks Summit native Gino has performed in Elvis Presley's hometown of Tupelo, Mississippi where he won the national Elvis Tribute Artist Youth Competition.

Reservations are on a first come first served basis. Your check is due with the R.S.V.P. to Eleanor Tartella or Arline Cook by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Online Scheduling Available!**

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to the Universal website, [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), and click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **PA869** in the **Church Code field** and enter **photo** in the **Church Password field**. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 5 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday.

To set an appointment by phone call (888) 742-5823. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

We will also have scheduling available on Sunday before and after the church service.