



# Pendleton Center

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Real Love. Real Hope.*

6864 Campbell Blvd., North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
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**January 4 & 5, 2025 - Epiphany Sunday**

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

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We are so often focused on the destination in our travels. “Where are you going?” is the most common question upon hearing that someone is heading out of town. This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes “on the way.”

## WELCOME!

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Whether this is your first time here or you’re a member of our church family, we desire to welcome you and offer the opportunity for you to engage in worship and teachings from the Word of God. If you have any questions or need directions, please ask an usher.

If you’re new to Pendleton Center or need to update your info, fill out a Friendship Card - they are the green cards in the back of the chairs. You can also fill one out on our website.

To learn more about our church, visit [pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org).

**Children’s bulletins & clipboards** with activities are available in the back of the sanctuary.

**Jr. Church** is a service designed just for kids (3 y.o. - 6th gr.), and is available during our 9:00 AM service. Take children to the Ark before service and they’ll return at the end of worship.

**Nursery care** is available during the 9:00 AM service for 0-2 years. The Nursery is located by the main entrance to the church. A Family Room is also available next to the sound booth, in the back of the sanctuary, where you can sit with babies or small children if needed.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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Prelude

Welcome

Centering Song

Opening Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Opening Music

Offertory

Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Sermon: *"Persia: A Place of Return"* - Pastor Scott Johnson

Communion

Closing Song

Benediction

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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*Please lift these people and circumstances to God in your prayers throughout the week*

**Prayer for Healing:** Christa, Grace M, Elaine C, Larry, Jenna, Brian, Barb, Tyler, Family, Gary D, Family & wife, Unexpected illness, Traveling safety, Jane, Coleen, Guy H

**General Prayer Concerns:** Health & wellness, Peace, Wars, Leslie, Open all our eyes & hearts, Family unity, Finances, Passing of Linda Gill - prayers for family, World peace, Marcie,

**Ongoing Concerns:** Family, Our church, Our country, John B, Sherry L, Gary N, Those with cancer

**Random Prayer Selection:** Randy & Stefanie Rupp, Bill & Cindy Smist, Amy Yerdon, Susan King, Irma Ramos, Dave & Julie O'Neill, Wayne & Kathy Hill, Thomas Grupp, Cindy Frost, John & Sally Ferguson

*Please be in prayer for these randomly selected names and those close to them.*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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### This Week's Birthdays

4 - Karen Kurczynski

5 - Joe Margarucci

6 - Linda Barczykowski, Joel Hocking

7 - Crystal North

8 - Jim Jagow, Daniel Piazza

9 - Chad Stowe

10 - Liam Keelty, Vince Piazza

### This Week's Anniversaries

9 - Richard & Deborah Joseph - '93

Altar flowers sponsored by Carol Dombrowski, "In memory of Chet Dombrowski."

Bulletins sponsored by Mary Bobsein, "In memory of my dad, Arthur Herrington."

Communion elements sponsored anonymously.

*Please consider sponsoring our worship elements by signing up in the back of the sanctuary or at [pendletonchurch.org/worship-sponsor](https://pendletonchurch.org/worship-sponsor). Leave a message or sponsor anonymously.*

## Coats for the Cold

As we usually do after Christmas, we would like to gather up any gently used cold weather gear for those in our area who might be in need of warm clothing! Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, ear muffs, and even heavy socks and boots will be collected during the month of January and taken to our sponsored clothing closet in Niagara Falls and distributed to the guests attending the Thursday Night Dinner. Thanks for your help!  
*DJ Mahar*

## Feeding Hope

**Wednesday, January 8, 3:00 PM**

We start the new year with a pasta dinner. We're looking for donations of penne pasta, spaghetti sauce, plastic forks (only), and sandwich bags. We start cooking in the church kitchen at 3:00 PM and leave to go downtown Buffalo at 6:30 to hand out the meals. A helping hand is always needed to at least make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Come join us - either to help cook, go downtown, or both.

*Sandy Houck*

## Intergenerational Angel Wings

**Saturday, 1/11, 12-3p, Fellowship Hall**

Hope is on the move at Angel Wings! Our mission focus in January is for Journey's End Refugee Program. **We are collecting cleaning supplies and personal care products** to donate to this worthy cause. Join us as we learn more about Journey's End, work on mission projects, and share a meal together. We ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per family or \$3 per person. *Becky Heideman (716-625-8312) and the Angel Wings' team*

## Meal Ministry Thanks You

The busy but beautiful holiday season has come and gone, and we appreciate the support for making our meal ministries a resounding success! We helped care for the neighborhood around Seneca Street in Buffalo, supplied the Martha Mitchell Community Center, also in Buffalo, with a generous amount of turkey, and provided for our Thursday Night Dinner in Niagara Falls with weekly meals and Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Thank You! *DJ Mahar*

## Winter Youth Retreat

**January 24-26 at Camp Findley**

Our annual Youth Retreat is just around the corner, and our team has been working hard to plan an incredible weekend together.

Every year, our youth look forward to the much-anticipated annual retreat at Camp Findley. **This year, we will be taking a look at what it means to have *Everyday Faith* - to have more than just Sunday morning faith.**

We'll have a weekend packed with fellowship, games, and snow tubing, while we begin on a journey to explore what it means to live as a Christian every day, far beyond the confines of Sunday morning worship.

Sign up today by visiting [pendletonchurch.org/youthretreat](http://pendletonchurch.org/youthretreat) and for more information. The retreat will cost \$185 per person. This cost will cover food, lodging, and snow tubing. Registration and payment are due Sunday, January 19.

We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with all of you!

*Adrienne Demmin & your Youth Retreat Leaders*

## Youth Retreat Sponsors

We understand that some families may find the retreat cost difficult to pay, and we are looking for sponsors to help cover their expenses. Any contribution, whether a full scholarship or a smaller amount, will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Select "Youth Retreat Scholarship" at [pendletonchurch.org/give](http://pendletonchurch.org/give) or mark it on your giving envelope. Thank you for supporting our youth!

## Help UN-decorate the Church

As the Christmas season comes to an end, help is needed taking down the Christmas decorations in our church. There is no specific time we will be gathering - the decorations will be coming down throughout this week. If you would be able to help at any point during the week, see Adrian Almeida in the sound booth before/after service or by [email](mailto:adrian@pendletonchurch.org). Thank you!



## Holy Grounds Café

***Begins this Sunday, January 5, 2025, 11:00 AM***

Given Christ's Great Commission to His followers to go and make disciples of all nations and our church mission of building a community of Christian believers who love God, love one another, and share God's love with the world, **we're excited to start a new type of worship service at PCUMC designed to attract new people to our church community.** This new service is a reflection of our shared mission and values.

Our Holy Grounds Café embraces principles of The Gathering Service and integrates elements of "dinner church" models currently growing in popularity around the U.S. In a "dinner church" model, worshipers gather around tables, share a meal, and engage in worship and fellowship. Pastries provided by members of the church as part of our coffee hour will be available for them to enjoy as they settle into place.

**We plan to launch the café next Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 11:00 AM.** The holiday season provides a unique opportunity to reach people who are not regular church attendees. The hope is that this model of worship would provide a clear alternative to most models of worship that folks outside of church understand. **We would greatly appreciate more people to help with setup and provide dishes for the café.** This ministry needs your support through prayers and inviting friends to experience this great, new opportunity to find Christ and community!

For more details on how you can help with this new ministry, please contact Pastor Scott in the church office or by [email](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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More information about these events can be found at [pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org).

### BIBLE STUDIES & DEVOTIONS

#### **Adult Sunday School**

Sundays, 10:30a, Connection Room 3

#### **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

Sundays, 10:30a, Connection Room 2

#### **Closer Walk Wednesdays**

Wednesdays, 12p, on Facebook

#### **Thursday Bible Study**

Thursdays, 11a & 7p, Connection Room 1

#### **Loyal Ladies Bible Study**

Thursdays, 1p, Connection Room 2  
(Wed. when United Women in Faith meets)

### ADULTS

#### **Women's Book Club**

Wednesday, 12/18, 6p, The Country Cottage

#### **Niagara County Senior Lunch**

Mondays, 10a, Fellowship Hall

#### **Watercolor Classes**

Tuesdays at 1p, Saturdays at 9a, Art Room

#### **Country Line Dancing**

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7p, Gym

#### **Beginner Pickleball**

Wednesdays, 6:30p, Gym

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

#### **Youth Group (7-12th grade)**

Sundays, 1/12, 1/19, 6p, Gym

#### **Hot Chocolate with God & S'mores**

Fridays, 6p (Check calendar for dates)

#### **Youth Retreat (7-12th grade)**

January 24-26, Camp Findley

### MUSIC

#### **Pendletones Bell Choir**

Wednesdays, 6p, Connection Room 1

#### **Men of Hymn**

Wednesdays, 7p, Choir Room

### MISSIONS

#### **Feeding Hope**

Wednesday, 1/8, 3p, Kitchen

#### **Intergenerational Angel Wings**

Saturday, 1/11, 12-3p, Fellowship Hall

#### **Niagara Falls Thursday Night Dinner**

Thursdays, 5p, First UMC