

A Global
Methodist Church

SNYDER'S CHURCH

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*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ who
Worship passionately, Love extravagantly,
and Witness boldly"*

The Bible: IS The Word Of God – Jesus: IS The Only Way To Salvation
Prayer: IS Essential – Evangelism: IS Our Mission

February 2026

Snyder's Church Family and Friends

LADIES LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Since we did not have church on Sunday January 18th due to the snow/ice here is the last chance for the ladies to register for the Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Local Table Restaurant on Saturday January 3rd at 11:00 AM. You will be able to order off the menu a breakfast or luncheon item. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex, however, it would be best if you would call Bev Zeigler now with your reservation. Thank-you.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING REPORTS are being distributed by Sandy Graeff, Financial Secretary, thru Sunday January 25th and then any not received will be mailed. We want to express our deepest appreciation to Sandy for this labor of love and to offer special thanks to our entire church family that faithfully supports the church with financial tithes and offerings so we can meet all of our obligations. 2026 packets of envelopes have been handed out, if you did not receive one and would like a packet, speak to Sandy. Thank-you.

A WEBITE REPORT COVERING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER One of the special ministries of Snyder's Church is that we broadcast our Worship Service live on Sunday morning and we always welcome those in the Sanctuary, those who join us in live feed and those by video presentation later. In the month of December 2025 alone, a total of 19,318 visited our websiste. On Christmas Eve alone 3,115 visited our site. We offer praise to the Lord for this ministry and am grateful that George and Lisa make it available as part of our audio each week.

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Jeff Brewster, Assistant Pastor
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Phone: 717-834-9712

2026 Policies For Using Snyder's Church

[Adopted By Church Council November 9, 2025]

USE OF THE SOCIAL HALL

1. Permission for use of the Building/Pavilion will be secured through the Chair of Board of Trustees in consultation with the Pastor
2. After special permission has been granted, Trustees Chair shall mark the Church Calendar with the date and time
3. Anyone who is not a member of Snyder's Church will be charged a fee of \$175 for use of lighting, heating, air conditioning and gas. Fee is paid prior to use of the facilities, given to Chair of Trustees
4. ALL furniture that is used during the use of the building should be returned to its original position
5. NO tacks or tape or wax candles may be used on the walls, floors, ceilings
6. Use stepladders; Do NOT use chairs or tables
7. Sitting on tables is not permitted
8. This is a **Non-Smoking Campus** which means smoking is not permitted anywhere on our church property
9. Use a dry mop to clean up
10. Use of alcohol and other drugs is not permitted on church property
11. Shoes with roller blades are not permitted inside church property
12. All trash and garbage must be removed from church facilities and disposed of. **NOTE:** trash bags are available at current rate **[see Custodian for these and pay for them]**. Bags of trash must be removed and may be set out on Sunday evening for pick up
13. If you use the church's paper goods, then please replace them
14. A generous donation is expected/appreciated from members. Give to Trustees Chairman

USE OF SANCTUARY

1. Non-members will be charged \$125 for use of the sanctuary to be paid in advance of use; given to Chair of Trustees
2. A generous donation is expected/appreciated from church members. Give to Trustees Chairman

USE OF PAVILION

1. Non-members will be charged \$100 for use of the pavilion to be paid in advance; given to Chair of Trustees. Special arrangements will need to be made for Restroom use.
2. A generous donation is expected/appreciated from members. Give to Trustees Chairman

USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

1. The Chairperson of the Trustees is to be notified before borrowing any church property including tables, chairs, coffee pots – to receive permission for use first
2. A generous donation is expected/appreciated from members. Give to Trustees Chairman

Please refer any questions to the Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Church Council Chair. We thank-you for your support and faithfulness as always.

A TIME FOR CHANGES – Over my entire career there have been changes made and some were needed. For many years now I have served as the Chaplain for the Nickel-Lochstampfor Family Funeral Home in Loysville. Both Jimmy and Paul were most helpful and encouraging. For the past many years I have averaged 25-30 families helped at the time of death. These families either had no church connections or a pastor was not available, but they wanted the Funeral Home Chaplain to conduct a service for their loved one. I have always considered this to be an honor for me to help and without exception the families have deeply appreciated the ministry of service. In the past year or so more and more families are opting to have a time of gathering/memorial/remembrance at another time and the services of the Chaplain has not been used. There are probably many reasons for this. In 2025 I was able to only help 2 families. Therefore I have asked Angella to remove me as the Chaplain effective 1 January 2026. I have indicated that if there are families in the past that I have helped who are in need now that I would be more than willing/able to help them. Throughout my entire career I have always been available to the local funeral homes when there was a need, but the time is now for this change. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity.

CHURCH COUNCIL AND REPORTS – Our first meeting of 2026 for the Church Council will be Sunday February 8th at 8 AM in the Adult Classroom. All reports for this meeting are to be given to Lisa by Sunday February 1st.

VBS PLANNING MEETING 2026 – The first meeting of VBS planning for Snyders – Dellville – Roseglen will be held on Saturday morning February 7th at 10 AM. Decision for dates, curriculum and mission project will be determined.

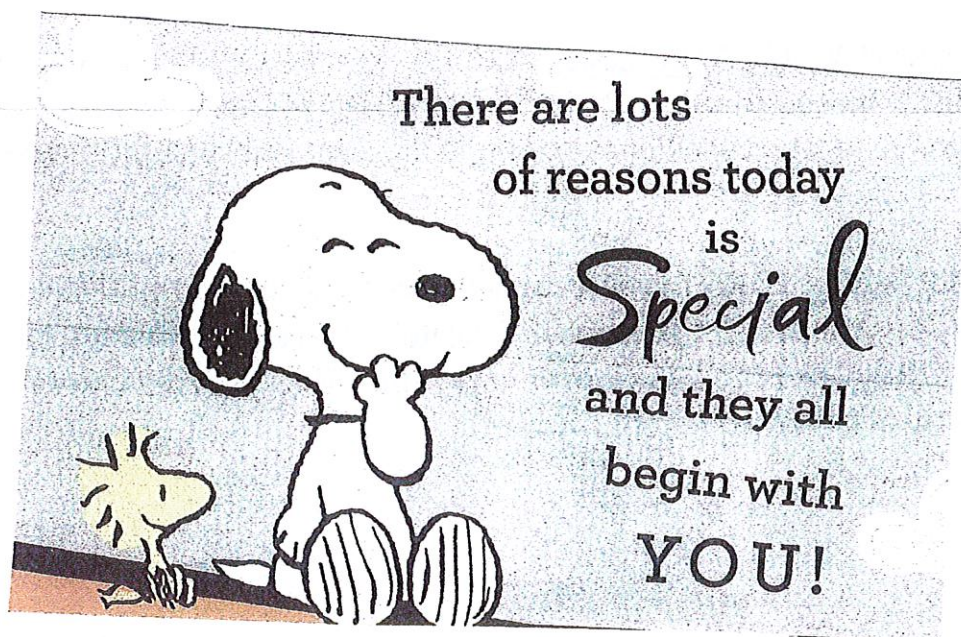
SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY is February 8 and you are asked to bring canned soup or money donations to fill the soup pot. All items will then be donated to the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank for Perry County. This is always a great project and we thank you in advance for your support.

GOOD NEWS SINGERS COMING to Snyder's Church on Sunday February 22nd at 3 pm. Sharing a cantata entitled "American Dreamers" and it is an inspirational patriotic musical, honoring God and Country on our 250th Anniversary. The program will also feature a "salute to the Armed Forces" and conclude with the ever popular "God Bless The USA." Invite friends, and veterans and wear your red, white and blue. Following the Cantata [where we will receive a love offering for the Good News Singers] we will meet in the fellowship room for ice cream and dessert. Please bring your favorite dessert to share.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF is Saturday February 21st beginning at 4 pm with games to follow at 5. Bring a different side if you are not a chili fan.

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DINNER for adults will be held at 2 pm on Saturday February 14th at the Bread of Life Restaurant, 30644 Route 35 N in McAlisterville. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Dan or Diana and plan to be with us.

LENTEN SEASON begins on Ash Wednesday February 18th. The Annual Soup/Sandwich and devotionals sponsored by the Duncannon Council of Churches will be announced in the church bulletin. Also the Community Good Friday Service schedule. On Easter Sunday April 5th we will hold our annual Sunrise Service at 7 AM in the Cemetery. Bill will lead the Service this year. Our 9:00 AM Service of Resurrection will be led by Jeff this year. Plan to be part of all the Lenten activities.



Grace and peace to you as we continue responding to **The Great Invitation**. So far, Jesus has invited us to *come and see* and then to *follow Him*. Those invitations begin to reorient our lives. But once we start walking with Jesus, a new question often rises in our hearts: *Do I really have what it takes to live this way?*

Jesus answers that question in Matthew 5, not by lowering the bar, but by redefining what it means to be truly **blessed**.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3 (NRSV)

We use the word *blessed* a lot. We say things like, "*I'm so blessed*," or "*What a blessing*," or even (with some sarcasm), "*Bless your heart*." Most of the time, we use the word *blessed* to describe something good that has happened to us - health, success, comfort, or a moment that makes life easier.

But when Jesus opened His most famous sermon, He turned our understanding of blessing completely upside down. Jesus sat down on a mountainside, looked at His disciples (and at the crowds gathering around) and began by naming people who don't look blessed at all: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the hungry, the merciful, the persecuted.

Jesus didn't describe people who have earned God's favor.
He described people who are **receiving** it.

This is a critical shift. In the kingdom of God, blessing is not a reward for good behavior. Blessing is the starting point. God blesses first, and that blessing becomes the motivation for how we live. That's why Jesus doesn't say, "If you become merciful, then God will bless you." He says, "*You are blessed. Now live mercifully.*"

God's blessing is not transactional. It's transformational.

Think about the way we bless a meal. The food doesn't change because we bless it. But we do. Our hearts are reoriented toward gratitude. Our attention shifts toward God. In the same way, Jesus' blessings don't change circumstances as much as they change people.

Jesus is training His followers to see the world - and themselves - through the lens of the kingdom. A kingdom where weakness is not disqualifying. Where sorrow is not the end of the story. Where hunger for righteousness is met with God's own provision. To be *blessed* in the kingdom of God means living in alignment with what God already values.

And once we understand that, something else becomes clear: we are not blessed so we can feel comfortable. We are blessed so we can *become a blessing*.

As followers of Jesus, we're invited to bless what God blesses. To value what God values. To step into the lives of others with mercy, humility, courage, and hope - not because we have it all together, but because God's grace has already met us.

This is training for kingdom living. And it's training that reshapes not just our faith, but our everyday lives.

Reflection Questions:

1. When you hear the word *blessed*, what images or assumptions come to mind, and how does Jesus challenge them?
2. Which of Jesus' blessings in Matthew 5 do you find most surprising or difficult to accept?
3. How might God be inviting you to bless others this week as a response to His grace in your life?

Prayer - *Gracious God, You bless us far beyond what we deserve and far differently than we expect. Teach us to see ourselves and others through the lens of Your kingdom. Shape our hearts to value what You value, and use our lives to reflect Your mercy, humility, and love. As we receive Your blessing, make us a blessing to the world around us. Amen.*

Final Thought - In God's kingdom, blessing is not the finish line - it's the starting place.

Blessed by grace.
Formed for love.
Sent to bless.

Blessings,
Steve



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