

DOCKET

PASTORAL CARE

The new church year begins on November 28 – the first Sunday of Advent. This year we will be using a worship series created by a team from Manitoba, Canada on the theme, “Dare to Imagine.”

As a way to center ourselves in Christ during Advent, you are invited to join others in a time of guided **Advent prayers in the chapel on Wednesday, December 1, 8 and 15, 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

The Longest Night or winter solstice occurs on December 21, a time to acknowledge what is sometimes called, “Blue Christmas.” We anticipate having **our Longest Night service on Sunday afternoon, December 19 at 3:00 p.m., in the chapel.** It will be an opportunity to name the darker emotions that often accompany our holiday festivities in the face of loss, illness, grief, change and disappointment. As we name our losses and light candles against the darkness, we will recognize God-with-us in the valleys as well as the mountain tops.

Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Thursday, December 23 (Christmas Eve eve ☺) at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel. As we listen to stories of people waiting for the Messiah, we will rejoice together in the presence of Christ with us now.

And one more opportunity to celebrate the season of Advent! **Filling the manger**....You will see “mangers” around our community, at the Bistro, in Oakwood Court, at the chapel and in Dock Manor. Each manger is waiting to be filled with the straw of kindness, as described in the following poem.

HOTLINE INFORMATION

Café/Dining Room Menu: 215-368-4438, extension 56789

Dining Reservations: 215-565-2407 or extension 52407

Fitness & Aquatics: 215-565-0236 or extension 50236

Information Technology: 215-412-5511 or extension 25511

Christmas is coming!

Do you feel prepared?

Do you feel the joy

Of a holiday shared?

This little manger

Is empty, it's true,

Waiting for good deeds

To carry us through.

Add one piece of straw

Each time that you show

A kindness to someone--

But don't let them know.

Add one piece of straw

Each time that you see

A gift being given

So generously.

Add one piece of straw

Each time you receive

A blessing from someone

That makes you believe

That Goodness abounds

That Love's still in style

That peace can prevail

Masks can't hide a smile.

When Christmas Eve comes

The straw will be piled--

A soft and warm bed

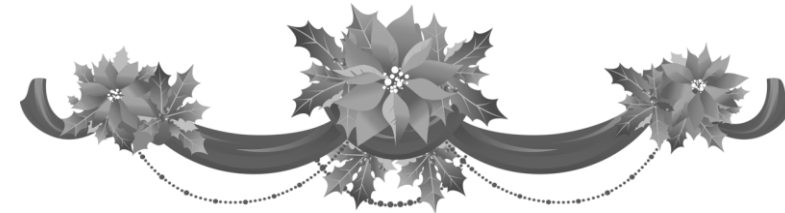
To welcome the Child.

DOCK WOODS

DOCK WOODS TREE LIGHTING RECEPTION

“While they were there, the time came for her to have her Child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

You are invited to attend the 2021 Tree Lighting Reception on Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bistro/FA. The evening Christmas celebration will begin with the Christmas dessert buffet, followed by the 7:00 p.m. program presented by the *Souderton Alumni Men's Chorus, directed by Jon Leight*. At 8:00 p.m. in the Community Center lobby, the official 2021 lighting of the Christmas tree and Christmas carol singing will take place to welcome the Christmas season at Dock Woods. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity beginning at 5:50 p.m.



POINSETTIA SALES

Did you know the legend of the Poinsettia is about the Mexican girl who offered weeds (the poinsettia) as a gift to Jesus on Christmas Eve? When she brought these weeds into the church, they blossomed into the beautiful red plants, and are now called the “Flowers of the Holy Night”. On Friday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. you may purchase this official Christmas flower in the Community Center lobby in front of the fireplace. On a first-come, first served basis, there will be two sizes available in red, white, and pink, with red or green foil per plant. The five inch poinsettia has three or four blooms for \$4.50 per plant, and the six inch poinsettia has five to seven blooms for \$7.00 per plant. Cash or checks made payable to Dock Woods will be accepted.



VICTORIAN TEA AND PROGRAM

You are cordially invited to attend the 2:00 p.m. Victorian Tea and program in the Fisher Auditorium on Friday, December 17. Come enjoy a cup of tea with your favorite tea cup or mug and enjoy the delicious Victorian dessert. Keith Brintzenhoff is **Belsnickel: the Pa German Santa Claus in costume**. A special feature of his program will be the translation of “The PA Dutch Night Before Christmas,” music and much more. Please make your reservations by calling Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org by Friday, December 10. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

DOCK WOODS CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

You are invited to attend the Dock Woods Choir Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. They will be presenting *“A Night for Rejoicing” by Lee and Susan Dengler* under the direction of Bill Kuhfuss. Guest soloist is Tina Hershberger, accompanied by Dottie Heebner at the piano. An offering will be received following the concert. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

RL DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 2:00 p.m. (FA)

ALL RL residents are invited to attend the monthly birthday celebration. If you are a December birthday celebrant, please call or email Eileen Burks at 215-368 4438, extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org by Tuesday, December 7 if you plan to attend and receive your birthday plant. This month we have invited back by popular demand "Music Memories with Bill & Michelle." At the birthday celebration we will be serving birthday cake and ice cream to all who plan to attend. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 8:00 a.m. (FA)

This month we are pleased that our executive director of Dock Woods, **BRANDON KASTNER**, is joining the men at our monthly breakfast as our guest speaker. Brandon has agreed to share with us a little about his background, his personal aspirations and his priorities for the future of Dock Woods. Brandon will also be updating us with the latest developments and the coming changes in our community. Please make your reservations by calling or emailing Eileen Burks at 215-368 4438, extension 44121, or

Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org by Tuesday, December 7. The price of the breakfast is \$7.65 per person, plus tax, to be billed on your statement after the breakfast. Ladies are welcome to hear the presentation at 8:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS HALLWAY MUSIC WITH SETH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 2:00 p.m. (N Wing LOBBY)

Jingle Bells... Jingle Bells... Come and join Seth Laucks for Christmas Hallway Music at 2:00 p.m. in the north wing lobby. Come and participate and enjoy this energetic time of singing and playing instruments with Seth while enjoying all the familiar songs of this special season. Hark the Herald Angels Sing... see you there!

CHRISTMAS "PATIO" CAROLING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 4:00 p.m. (BISTRO PATIO)

You are invited to come and listen to the Corpus Christi Catholic School's Caring Cougars Outreach Club who will be caroling on the outside patio. Put on your warm coats and join this special group of children as they delight us with some of our favorite Christmas songs. Be sure to wear your masks!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING WITH JIM SMITH & FRIENDS MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 2:00 p.m. (CH)

You are invited to join Jim Smith and some of our talented musicians that reside at Dock Woods for an afternoon Christmas Carol Sing in the Chapel. The one-hour program will feature Christmas classics arranged for piano, organ and trumpet. As you enjoy singing, the words to the carol sing will appear on the large screens. Mark your calendars and come and enjoy the great Christmas spirit had by all! A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BEACH BALL VOLLEYBALL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 2:00 p.m. (FA)

The Resident Fitness and Aquatics Committee invites all residents to a fun afternoon of seated "beach ball" volleyball. So much fun, even the audience is in play! Even if you aren't sure, come on down, follow the laughs, and have a great time. *Masking subject to current LB guidelines.

PENN VIEW BRASS BAND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 7:00 p.m. (CH)

You are invited to come and enjoy the sounds of Christmas featuring the Penn View Brass Band under the direction of

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS AND UPDATES

This page was removed to protect the privacy of our residents.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING TRIPS

HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE "Christmas at the Playhouse"

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3
9:00 a.m. (TRIP)**

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with reservations to Hampton, N.J. to enjoy the served lunch and afternoon show, "Christmas At the Playhouse." The coach will pick up at each entity. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 5:15 p.m.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE "MIRACLE ON 34th STREET"

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9
9:00 a.m. (TRIP)**

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with reservations to Lancaster to enjoy the hot luncheon buffet and afternoon show, "Miracle On 34th Street." The coach will pick up at each entity. Approximate return to Dock Woods is 6:00 p.m.

LANSDALE COMMUNITY CONCERT, N.P.H.S.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11
6:00 p.m. (TRIP)**

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with a season membership to the North Penn High School to enjoy the second concert of the season at 7:30 p.m., featuring "The Holiday Show – Symphony Singers and the Allentown Band." The price of this trip for transportation is

\$5.10 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438 extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org. The coach will begin to pick up at each entity at 6:00 p.m. Remember your ticket and masks!

RL DINE AROUND-JOSEPH AMBLER INN

**Thursday, December 16
4:30 p.m. (TRIP)**

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Montgomeryville to enjoy dinner at the Joseph Ambler Inn. At the restaurant you will be seated at tables of four and six, order off the menu and receive a check per table. Suggested to take cash for payment and tip. Sign up with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438 extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org. The coach will begin to pick up at 4:30 p.m. traveling to each entity.

CANDY CANES DONATION

We are seeking candy canes throughout the month of December to treat our holiday entertainers and choirs. Donations can be placed in the boxes located in the Dock Manor Lobby and below the Dock Gardens mail boxes. Your donations are sweetly appreciated!



UPCOMING EVENT

**What Day is This? Production
January 25, 2022 2:00 p.m.
(CH)**

If you have ever gotten awake and asked yourself this question, this show is for you. Get ready for another original show by the Dock Players. The cast has members everyone will recognize. The script contains material gathered across the campus. There will be literary dialogue, drama, music, dance, tragedy and surprises. Get prepared for humor with a side of seriousness, no romance. Set your calendar for January 25, 2022; you will know what day it is!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

artistic director, John Shaw. This authentic British style brass band, consisting of 30 members, will be performing their Christmas arrangements in the Chapel. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 6:20 p.m.

**"CANDY CRAFTER"
CHRISTMAS SALES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CC
Lobby)**

Just in time for Christmas, and your last minute Christmas shopping, "Candy Crafter" operated by Bev Nace, will be set-up in the Community Center Lobby in front of the fireplace with homemade varieties of candies and gift items. Bev's candies are delicious, reasonably priced, and she always has great selections in abundance. Checks and cash are accepted. Be sure to mark your calendars!

**SANTA GEORGE & ANN CLAUS
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
2:00 p.m. (FA)**

Santa George and Mrs. Ann Claus will be making a special one hour appearance in the Fisher Auditorium to entertain, interact with the guests attending, and possibly provide, if time permits, photo opportunities. Come and enjoy the special Christmas cheer that will last you into the new year and more! A shuttle will begin

to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

**PATIO FIRE PIT CHRISTMAS
CAROLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
5:30 p.m. (Outside Patio)**

Come and warm your hands at the lit fire pit located outside on the patio, and enjoy a warm cup of cocoa with marshmallows as we sing a variety of Christmas carols together. If you have a favorite carol, we would love for you to share your requests. Hope to see you there! Dress warmly!

**CHRISTMAS HALLWAY MUSIC
WITH SETH
FRIDAY DECEMBER 17
10:00 a.m. (SW LOBBY)**

Joy To The World... Join Seth Laucks for morning Christmas hallway music in the south wing lobby. Come and participate and enjoy this energetic time of singing and playing instruments while enjoying some favorite Christmas selections. "We wish you a Merry Christmas"... see you there!

**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
3:00 p.m. (CH)**

SEE PAGE 8 FOR INFO

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23
2:00 p.m. (CH)**

SEE PAGE 8 FOR INFO

**THE VICTORIAN WOMAN and
CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:
Presented by HERB and
SANDY KAUFMAN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22
2:00 p.m. (CH)**

You are invited to the chapel for a 2:00 p.m. presentation with the Kaufmans as they present "THE VICTORIAN WOMAN and CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS." This program explores the daily lives of women during the mid-Victorian era and explores the Christmas traditions and culture of the day. The program will feature a collection of original Christmas gifts including Victorian era toys, jewelry and books. There will be NO SHUTTLE.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
4:30 p.m. (FA/BISTRO)**

ALL RESIDENTIAL LIVING residents are invited to make your reservations by calling extension 52407, direct dial 215-565-2407, or emailing your reservations for fooddw@livingbranches.org, if you plan to attend the 4:30 p.m. New Year's Buffet. Start the evening out early wearing your dazzling attire and celebrate the ringing of the New Year with "Suite Brass Quintet" who have provided a wide variety of music for over 25 years. At 5:30 p.m. the concert will include songs representing the American experience. There will be NO shuttle! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REPORTS

FUND DEVELOPMENT

End of the Year Benevolent Care Fund Reminder

As we approach the time when many of us begin to plan for our year-end giving, we want to remind you about the benevolent care ministry at Living Branches. The gap in funding for residents who are no longer able to pay the full cost of their care continues to grow each year and we appreciate your ongoing support. It is through your faithful gifts that we are able to provide quality care for all of our residents, regardless of their ability to pay. Year-end mailings were sent out at the end of November. Contributions should be received by the Fund Development office no later than Friday, December 31, 2021 in order to be acknowledged for the 2021 tax year. Thank you for considering Living Branches in your year-end giving! For more information, please contact Keith Heavener or Dena Winner at 215-368-4438.

Do You Shop on Amazon.com?

Do your family and friends use Amazon.com regularly? You can help Living Branches residents while you shop! AmazonSmile is the charitable arm of Amazon.com allowing shoppers to donate 0.5% of their purchases to the charity they select. The next time you are shopping online be sure to use [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and select Living Branches as your charity of choice. Donations are received quarterly and benefit the Living Branches Benevolent Care Fund which assists residents at all three campuses needing financial assistance. There is no cost for using AmazonSmile, and every time you shop, the Benevolent Care fund benefits!!

Legacy Giving Program Information for 2022

November is the month when we send out renewal notices to the donors who have joined the Legacy Giving - Circle of Faith. In February, we will send out information about our Legacy Giving Circles and invite new donors to join the program. Legacy Giving donors commit to at least one of the following giving levels, and there are numerous payment options available. Donors can also make contributions in more than one Circle.

- Circle of Faith: Annual contributions of \$500 or more
- Circle of Hope: Lifetime Contributions of \$25,000 or more
- Circle of Love: Planned gifts, which include charitable gift annuities and gifts designated in your will, such as cash, stocks, insurance, or real estate.

Legacy Giving supports our benevolent care ministry, which provides grants to residents who are no longer able to pay the full cost for their care, through no fault of their own. Legacy Giving donors also receive certain benefits in return for their contribution. To learn more about the Legacy Giving Program, please contact:

- Keith Heavener, Director of Fund Development, call 215-368-4438, ext. 44115, or e-mail keith.heavener@livingbranches.org
- Dena Winner, Fund Development Associate, call 215-368-4438, ext. 44304, or e-mail dena.winner@livingbranches.org

For more information, go to the Everence website: [Everence.com](https://www.everence.com)

Consider supporting the Living Branches Benevolent Care Fund with your RMD or QCD.

For more information contact: Jeff Godshall or Randy Nyce at Everence: 215-703-0111; Keith Heavener or Dena Winner at Living Branches: 215-368-4438.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Update for 2021

Here is an update from Everence Financial about the latest RMD changes: The RMD rules for 2021 reverted back to what they had been prior to the CARES act with persons who had been taking RMDs in the past needing to take their RMD for 2021 by December 31. As before, anyone who reached age 70½ before Jan 1, 2020 is required to continue taking an RMD. The rules on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) have also not changed and are available

to anyone with an IRA who is at least age 70½. The maximum that can be gifted to charity from an IRA in one year is still \$100,000 per individual. Donations must be sent directly from your IRA to the organizations you support. This is a great strategy for those who don't itemize their taxes.

VOLUNTEERS

As the year comes to a close, this is a reminder for volunteers to report any hours that have not yet been reported for calendar year 2021. If you are unsure about what to report, please call Lynne Allebach at 215-368-4438, extension 42289, or Jennifer Wilson at extension 44189. Thank you, volunteers, for your dedication throughout the year and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DINING SERVICES

Tuesday, December 7 – Tree Lighting – Hearthside Bistro closes at 5:30 p.m. in order to set up for the tree lighting event.

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Buffet will be at 12:00 p.m. Please make reservations by calling extension 52407 or e-mail fooddw@livingbranches.org by Friday, December 17. Christopher's take-out closed/Hearthside Bistro closed at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day Buffet will be at 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There are two seatings for this meal, 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please make reservations by calling extension 52407 or e-mail fooddw@livingbranches.org by Friday, December 17. The Hearthside Bistro will close at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve will be an evening buffet at 4:30 p.m. Please make reservations by calling extension 52407 or e-mail fooddw@livingbranches.org by December 24. Bistro will close at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday January 1-New Year's Day will be a buffet starting at 12:00 p.m. After the buffet the Hearthside Bistro will not reopen for evening meal service! Please make reservations by calling ext. 52407 or e-mail fooddw@livingbranches.org by Thursday, December 23.

** Reminder – The Bistro will close at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day – we will not reopen after the buffet.

THE ACORN SHOP

This month we will feature our popular coupon special---make your own sale! The coupon is for **25% off one item of your choice**, only on Thursday, December 9, or Friday, December 10! Pick up a coupon outside the Acorn Shop for yourself, friends and family! Limit of one coupon per person. The shop will be open every weekday afternoon, Monday – Friday, until 3 pm from November 26 through Christmas. **Christmas 50% off clearance** will run from December 27-31. All funds raised during the year benefit our Sharing Fund! **P.S. The Acorn Shop will close at 1:00 Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.**

DOCK'S GIFTS & TREASURES SHOP

All **Christmas Décor** in Gifts and Treasure Shop **and** in the Nook will be **½ price beginning December 13!** Also, **Purses, Wallets and all tote bags/duffel bags are ½ price the entire month!** Stop in to see what's new! There are many items suitable for decorating, gift giving or holiday entertaining, along with everyday household goods. Located next to the Dock Manor lobby, the shop is open Monday through Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition, the "Nook" by the café, is open all day! Pay for these items in the Acorn Shop or after hours at the receptionist desk with exact change or check. We hope to see you soon!

P.S. The shop will be closed on Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

SARA SPOTLIGHT

What should I do with my pendant when I go off campus?

The SARA pendant will not work off campus. If you are going away overnight, you should leave your pendant in your home. If you forget to leave it at home please do not leave your SARA device in your car. The extreme temperatures can potentially render the device inoperable.