ADDITIONAL EVENTS CONTINUED:

REINDEER DASH
DECEMBER 4 2:00 (FA) details pending, stay tuned

MUSIC AND DRUMMING
DECEMBER 8TH AND 22ND 10:00 A.M. (OC3)

Bring a friend and join personal care residents on the 3rd floor of Oakwood Court for an exciting 30 mins of seated drumming set to fun and energetic music! The group will drum along to Christmas and winter songs by Perry Como, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, and more. Drumming to music is an excellent way to work out while having fun with your friends.

WELLNESS CENTER

The Walk-in Wellness Clinic is open daily Monday through Friday from 8:45-10:45 a.m. except for the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, the hours are from 1:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment at any other time. You can schedule a time to see the RL Nurse during her normal office hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. HNL Lab Services are available by appointment only for residents of Dock Acres, Dock Gardens, the Villas, and residents of Dock Manor who have joined the Wellness Center. Please bring your lab and any therapy orders during clinic hours to the RL nurse in the Wellness Center at least 48 business hours before your requested appointment. Labs are drawn on Mondays and Thursdays only at 7:30 a.m. in the Wellness Center Clinic.
To make an appointment with the following doctors, please inform them that you will be seen at Dock Woods.

Dr. Alexandra Parish and Dr. Stephanie Varghese
Montgomery Podiatry
Call: 215-361-5769 to schedule

Brigitte Harken, CRNP
Tracy Young, CRNP
Tri Valley Primary Care
Call: 215-723-7833 or call the RL nurse, if you need to see Brigitte urgently.

Dr. Madelynn Petrancuri and Dr. Holly Forst
Live Better Hearing + Balance
(Associates in Hearing)
Call: 215-855-4217

Dr. Adam Millis, Optometrist
Health Drive 888-964-6681

Jennifer LeBlanc, Massage Therapist
484-680-2372 to make an appointment

A Living Branches Community Newsletter
December 2026

DOCKET

DOCK WOODS

POINSETTIA SALES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon BISTRO LOBBY

Mark your calendars and come and purchase a poinsettia, the "FLOWER of the HOLY NIGHT," in the Bistro Lobby. There will be two sizes available in red, white, pink, and red glitter, with red or green foil per plant. The five-inch poinsettia has three to four blooms for $5.00 per plant. The six-inch poinsettia has five to seven blooms for $8.00 per plant. The poinsettias are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cash is preferred or checks made payable to Dock Woods will be accepted.

DOCK WOODS TREE LIGHTING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
6:00 p.m. BISTRO/FA/BISTRO LOBBY

For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given… Isaiah 9:6

You are invited to attend the 2026 Tree Lighting Reception on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bistro/Fisher Auditorium. The Christmas celebration will begin as we enjoy delicious, boxed desserts and Christmas beverages at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. we've invited Dock Mennonite Academy's Chamber Choir and Select Instrumental Musicians for the one-hour Christmas program. At 8:00 p.m. the official 2026 Christmas Tree Lighting will begin in the Bistro Lobby followed by some caroling and the arrival of a special guest! A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 5:20 p.m.

UNITED SCHWENKFELDER CHOIR
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:00 p.m. DERSTINE CHAPEL

You are invited to come enjoy the United Schwenkfelder Choir in the Derstine Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7. The program this year, *A Celebration of Carols,* is a combination of choral music sharing the gospel message with traditional Christmas carols in new settings and exciting arrangements. This year marks the choir's 95th year of music ministry. The choir is an ecumenical, non-denominational group drawing its members from 30 different area churches. Following the concert a DONATION will be received. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 6:20 p.m.



VICTORIAN TEA PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
2:00 p.m. FISHER AUDITORIUM

Celebrate the season as we enjoy the Victorian Tea Program in the Fisher Auditorium. At this traditional Christmas event, we ask you to bring along your favorite teacup, or mug, and enjoy a relaxing hot cup of tea while enjoying the delicious Victorian dessert. This year Harpist Joanna Mell will be playing beautiful Christmas selections for your listening pleasure. After the program you will have time to share and reflect upon some of your Christmas memories. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438, extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

DOCK WOODS CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22
2:00 p.m. DERSTINE CHAPEL

You are invited to attend the Dock Woods choir Christmas Cantata on Tuesday, December 22 in the Derstine Chapel at 2:00 p.m. The choir, under the direction of Bill Kuhfuss, will present the Christmas musical, *THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD* by Dennis and Nan Allen, with guest soloist Tina Hershberger, accompanied by Beth Casmas at the piano. A LOVE OFFERING will be received following the concert. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AMICI OPERA COMPANY
DONIZETTI'S, *DON PASQUALE*
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
2:30 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

You are invited to join artistic director and founder of the Amici Opera Company, Ralph Tudisco, in the Derstine Chapel for the 2:30 p.m. afternoon opera, Donizetti's, ***Don Pasquale.*** Residents of Living Branches receive free admission with their ID badge. There is a fee charged to guests at the sign-in table located in the chapel porch hallway.

ASK THE THERAPIST
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (BISTRO LOBBY)

Ask the Therapist is an informal opportunity to meet with our physical, occupational, and speech therapy team. Stop by with questions about mobility, balance, strength, fall prevention, daily activities, cognition, communication, swallowing, or other rehabilitation services. Receive professional guidance and learn how therapy can help you maintain independence, improve function, and enhance quality of life.

NORTH PENN SINGERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
7:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we invite you to come enjoy the 7:00 p.m. concert in the Derstine Chapel with the North Penn Singers. Under the artistic direction of Sonia Bancroft, this small choral group has been delighting audiences with their seasonal music for years. This group was founded under the Alvin Schmidt Scholarship Fund, and the musical legacy lives on. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 6:20 p.m.

CANDY CRAFTERS CHRISTMAS CANDY & GIFT SALES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (BISTRO LOBBY)

Crafter and candy maker, Bev Nace will have a variety of homemade candies and holiday gift items for sale in the Bistro Lobby, all at very reasonable prices. The candies are delicious, and there is always an abundance of great selections. CASH and CHECKS are accepted! A donation from the Candy Crafters sales will benefit the Sharing Fund at Dock Woods. Enjoy your holiday shopping!

RL DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
2:00 p.m. (FA)

ALL Residential Living 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 8 if you plan to attend and receive your birthday plant. This month we have invited vocalist, Bill Hatalaski, to perform as our afternoon entertainment. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

PENN VIEW BRASS BAND
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
7:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

Back for the Holiday season we have invited the Penn View Brass Band for the 7:00 p.m. concert in the Derstine Chapel. This 30-member authentic British-style brass band, under the direction of John Shaw, will be performing this year's holiday selections. Come and enjoy the music performed by some of the most experienced brass instrumentalists. A DONATION will be received following the concert. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 6:20 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
8:00 a.m. (FA)

Join Chief Timothy Troxell of the Towamencin Township Police Department for an overview of the department and a discussion on crime prevention and identity theft affecting seniors. Questions are welcome. The price of breakfast is $10.50 per person plus tax. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438, extension, 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org Ladies are welcome to hear the presentation at 8:30 a.m.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS MUSIC with SETH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
2:00 p.m. (BISTRO LOBBY)

Celebrate the joy of Christmas at Sounds of the Season with Seth. Sing along to beloved holiday favorites, play simple percussion instruments, and enjoy the spirit of the season through music, fellowship, and fun. We'll share classic carols and festive songs that bring Joy to the World and celebrate the wonder of Christmas together. No musical experience needed. All are welcome! Caregivers are encouraged to bring their loved ones. Merry Christmas!

HISTORY'S MYSTERIES OF VICTORIAN AMERICA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
2:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

Join historians, Herb and Sandy Kaufman as they provide an educational and entertaining look at

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS AND UPDATES

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

HOTLINE INFORMATION

Bistro: *215-368-4438, extension 44145*

Dining Reservations: *215-565-2407 or extension 52407*

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

Information Technology: *215-412-5511 or extension 25511*

RESIDENTIAL LIVING TRIPS

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE "HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY" THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 9:00 a.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with reservations to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, to enjoy the hot buffet and afternoon show, ***"Holly Jolly Holiday."*** The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 9:00 a.m. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 6:00 p.m.

LANSDALE COMMUNITY CONCERT - CALVARY CHURCH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 6:00 p.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with season membership to Calvary Church in Souderton, to enjoy the second concert of the season at 7:30 p.m., featuring ***The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass.*** The price of this trip for transportation is $5.00 per person. Sign up by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438, extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 6:00 p.m. Remember your ticket!

RL DINE AROUND WATER WHEEL TAVERN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 3:45 p.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Doylestown to enjoy the 5:30 p.m. reservation at Water Wheel Tavern. You will be seated at tables of 4 and 6 and receive separate checks (CASH ONLY). Sign up with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438, extension, 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 3:45 p.m.

HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE "A PLAYHOUSE CHRISTMAS 2026" THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 9:00 a.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with reservations to Hampton, N.J. to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to enjoy the served lunch and afternoon show, ***"A Playhouse Christmas 2026."*** The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 9:00 a.m. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 5:15 p.m.

BRANDYWINE MUSEUM OF ART MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 12:00 NOON (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with reservations to Chadds Ford, to enjoy the guided Museum Art Tour and free time at the Holiday Trains and Holiday Galleries. The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 12:00 noon. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 5:15 p.m.

12/7 2:00 P.M. CORNHOLE (FA)

12/14 3:00 P.M. CHAIR VOLLEYBALL (FA)

12/28 2:00 P.M. CHAIR VOLLEYBALL (FA)





DOCK STEWARDS

Is Your Holiday Wrapping Paper Recyclable?

❌ **Not recyclable:**

• Metallic, glittery, textured, or heavily taped wrapping paper
• Ribbons, bows, and glitter-covered decorations

☑ **Usually recyclable:** Plain or printed paper-based wrapping paper (as long as it's not metallic or glittery)

Eco-friendly alternative: Get creative with reusable materials like scarves, tea towels, cloth napkins, or other fabrics for a beautiful and sustainable wrapping option.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED

the life and culture of the Victorian era and examine many entertaining and historical events and cultural phenomena. Learn how Alexandrina Victoria and her reign becomes known as the Victorian Era; a time of great invention, innovation, and originality. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

INDIAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT CHOIR, CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, JAZZ BAND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 2:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

Come enjoy the Christmas performance with the Indian Valley Middle School's Select Choir, Chamber Ensemble, and Jazz Band. These talented students are excited to perform their holiday concert for us! A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

STROLLING STRINGS YOUTH ORCHESTRA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 7:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

Mark your calendars and come out to enjoy Strolling Strings Youth Orchestra, middle school-aged musicians from across the area, including Lansdale, Souderton, Perkasie, Quakertown, and Boyertown. These young string players have prepared a variety of selections including Christmas favorites, Hanukkah music, and more. This performance will also feature special student spotlights to bring you smiles and holiday cheer! A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 6:20 p.m.

PENNFIELD/PENNBROOK ORCHESTRA FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 11:00 a.m. (BISTRO LOBBY)

We invite you to come enjoy the Christmas music performed by this orchestra. These talented students, under the direction of Blair Higgins, will be bringing you Christmas joy as they perform in front of the Bistro Lobby Christmas tree. Each year the students travel to many communities and share their talents and their holiday spirit! Mark your calendars!

RESIDENT CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (RESIDENT'S HOMES) 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ED & GAYLE GOTWALS HOME 773VL)

As we celebrate the Christmas season, Dock Woods residents are inviting you to come enjoy the Christmas decorations and hospitality of their homes. If *you* are interested in opening your home, please contact Eileen Burks. During the week of the Resident Open House, the names and numbers of the apartments will be posted on the bulletin boards, channel 2 and on the portal. The Resident Open House will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Gotwals at 773VL have extended the time at their home to 6:00 p.m. so that you may enjoy the incredible train display. Pick-up for the shuttle will begin at 1:20 p.m., and return at approximately 4:00 p.m. **Please contact Eileen Burks if you request a shuttle by Thursday, December 17**, at 215-368-4438, extension 44121. Enjoy the joy of the season!

WINE IN THE WOODS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 4:30 p.m. (CHRISTOPHER'S)

Wear your Red and Green and come relax and enjoy an evening of celebrating the Christmas season at this month's Wine in the Woods. This is a BYOB wine social; you bring the wine and we supply the wine glasses along with other beverages. Appetizers will be available for you to enjoy. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks by calling or emailing her at 215-368-4438, extension 44121, or Eileen.burks@livingbranches.org Just a reminder to take your remaining wine with you after the social!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 2:00 p.m. (DERSTINE CHAPEL)

See page 5

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

ALL residents are invited to sign up and attend the New Year's Eve Buffet. This is a **RESERVATION ONLY** buffet. Please call the dining services voicemail extension at 52407 or email fooddw@livingbranches.org to make your reservations. Menus will be available outside the Bistro and on the Resident Portal. At 5:30 p.m. we will ring in the New Year early with music performed by the SUITE BRASS QUINTET. Be sure to wear your dazzling attire and enjoy as we begin to celebrate New Years!! The shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 3:50 p.m. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REPORTS

REMINDER

As the holidays approach, please remember that team members are not permitted to accept tips, gratuities or gifts from residents or residents' family members.

SARA SPOTLIGHT

SARA devices check into the SARA system every hour to report their battery health. We receive a report first thing each morning indicating whose SARA battery needs replacement. You will be contacted for battery replacement if your SARA battery is on the low battery report.

Be WYSE on campus - Wear Your SARA Everywhere

VOLUNTEERS

Just a reminder as we approach the end of the year, please make sure you are logging your volunteer hours! There are a few ways you can do that. You can handwrite your hours in one of our logbooks around campus, you can enter them online through VicNet, our online volunteer tracking system, or you can call them in to the volunteer office or leave a note under the volunteer office door. This helps us to recognize you for your service as well as helping Living Branches keep its not-for-profit status. Feel free to call Jennifer Wilson at 215-368-4438 extension 44189 if you have any questions or need help getting caught up on your hours.

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 in November. Contributions should be received by the Fund Development office no later than Thursday, December 31, 2026, to be acknowledged for the 2026 tax year. Thank you for considering Living Branches in your year-end giving!

Legacy Giving Program Information for 2027 – Renewals and Commitments

In early 2027, current members of our Legacy Giving Program will receive renewal information for the **Circle of Faith**, and residents interested in learning more about Legacy Giving will receive information about joining one of our giving circles.

Legacy Giving supports Living Branches' benevolent care ministry, helping ensure that residents who have outlived their financial resources can continue receiving the care in the community that supports them.

Residents may participate through one of the following giving circles:

- **Circle of Faith** – Annual gifts of $500 or more
- **Circle of Hope** – Lifetime giving of $25,000 or more
- **Circle of Love** – Planned gifts, including gifts designated through a will, trust, retirement account, or gifting appreciated securities (stocks, etc.)

Information about making a 2027 Legacy Giving commitment will be shared in the spring. Pledge payments are due by December 31, 2027.

Through their generosity, Legacy Giving donors help care for fellow residents and are living out the joy of generosity and compassion at Living Branches.

To learn more about Legacy Giving, please contact:
Colin Ingram
Associate Director of Fund Development
215-368-4438, extension 44304
colin.ingram@livingbranches.org

Friends of Benevolent Care Celebration 2026

The Friends of Benevolent Care Celebration was held on October 28 at the Dock Woods campus. The evening was very successful with a full house of guests enjoying a served meal. We enjoyed a video presentation hearing from a resident with ties to a community business and why they partner and support benevolent care fund

REPORTS

at Living Branches. There was also a benevolent care update from Ed Brubaker, President/CEO of Living Branches, and we had beautiful dinner music by a string duet from Cairn University. Thank you for your very generous support of the 38th Annual Friends of Benevolent Care Celebration – your support brings comfort!

CHEF'S DINNER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

This month's Countryside Italian dining experience brings the comforting flavors of Italy to the table. The meal begins with a savory Parmesan croquette, lightly fried and topped with crispy prosciutto, offering a delicious balance of creamy and crunchy textures. Guests will then enjoy a mussel, tomato, and red pepper salad paired with potato salad, showcasing the fresh, simple ingredients found throughout Italian cuisine. Next is a pumpkin and goat cheese frittella, blending seasonal pumpkin with tangy goat cheese for a warm and flavorful intermezzo. The entrée features Risotto alla Milanese with slow-cooked beef, combining creamy saffron risotto with tender, richly flavored beef. To finish, diners will savor a refreshing Limoncello Tiramisu, a citrus-inspired twist on the classic Italian dessert that provides the perfect ending to this countryside culinary journey. Reservations requested.

ACORN SHOP

All Christmas decorations will be 50% off from December 14-31
Tax free shopping day December 11

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

GIFTS & TREASURES SHOP

All Christmas decorations 50% off
Tax free day December 11th

Hours: Monday-Friday: 1:00-3:00p.m.
Saturday: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE

God speaks in one way, in two ways, but no one perceives it. In the dream, a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon humans, during their slumber on a bed, then he opens people's ears. Job 33:14-16

This Advent season we are invited to activate our imaginations and to dream with God: to prayerfully imagine the world as God desires it to be, and to act in ways that make God's dream reality.

We will hear God's dreams of Hope as the birth of John the Baptist is foretold, God's dreams of Peace as the birth of Jesus is foretold, God's dreams of Joy as Mary and Elizabeth celebrate their pregnancies together, and God's dreams of Love as John the Baptist is born and his father sings for joy.

God's dream has a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit, who puts God's dream in our hearts and opens doors for that dream to become reality. May we dream with God this Advent season so that God's dream will become our own children's reality.

"May you dream the dreams of heaven so they may become real on earth."

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, December 24.

The Willows – 2:00 p.m., Activity Room

Dock Woods – 2:00 p.m., Derstine Chapel

Souderton Mennonite Homes – 2:00 p.m., Summit View Auditorium

~Pastor Deb Neild

