

— THE —
BELT
AND
Beyond

FREE

**Volume 11 • Issue 19
DECEMBER 19, 2024**



Merry Christmas

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WEEKEND HAPPENINGS

Plainfield Twp. Vol. Fire Co. Christmas/New Years BINGO

The Plainfield Township Vol. Fire Co. will host a special Christmas/New Years Celebration BINGO **Thursday, December 19, Doors Open 4:00PM-BINGO starts 6:30PM.** Plainfield Twsp. Vol Fire Co., 6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA. 1809. *See ad on page 3 for details*

Bangor Church of the Nazarene Sweet & Discreet

Bangor Church of the Nazarene offers a free monthly supply of feminine hygiene products to those in need on the 4th Saturday of the month. The next give away will be **Saturday, December 21 9:00AM-11:00AM.** The church is located at 150 Bunny Trail Rd., Bangor, PA 18103.

Bangor Elks Lodge #1106 Hoop Shoot

The Bangor Elks Lodge #1106 annual Hoop Shoot will be held on **Saturday, December 21, with registration beginning at 8:30a.m. hoop shoot starts at 9:00 a.m.** at the Washington Elementary School, Washington Blvd. Bangor PA. 18013. FMI go to www.elks.org For questions or concerns contact the lodge by email at bangorelks@gmail.com *See ad on page 3 for details*

Empires Coffee & Second Ward Fire Co Free Holiday Meal

Empires Coffee & Second Ward Fire Co is hosting a free holiday meal on **Saturday, December 21, 5:00PM** at Empires Coffee, 32 Broadway, Bangor, PA. Open to the public. Come celebrate!

Plainfield Township Vol. Fire Co. Breakfast with Santa

The Plainfield Township Vol. Fire Co. will hold a Breakfast with Santa on **Saturday, December 21, 8:00AM-11:00AM** Plainfield Twsp. Vol Fire Co., 6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA. 18091 *See ad on page 3 for details*

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Clothing Closet

Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor will host a free Clothing Closet on **Saturday, December 21, 11:00AM-1:30PM.** The clothing closet will be open the first and third Saturday of every month. 404 Broadway, Bangor, PA. 18013.

Portland Hook & Ladder Santa Breakfast

The Portland Hook & Ladder Santa Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, December 22, 7:30AM-11:30AM** at the William Pensyl Social Hall, 111 State Street, Portland, PA.

See Church Christmas Eve Services page 7

Please support the businesses who advertise in this publication! Live ❤️ Local

CONTACT US:

thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com
 P.O. Box 33, Bangor, Pa 18013
 610.704.6818

Like us on Facebook "The Belt and Beyond"
 Online at www.thebeltandbeyond.com

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Email your news and events to
thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Next issue January 9, 2025

Deadline for all news and advertising Friday, January 3.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
 6 DAYS



7th Annual Snowmen of Stroudsburg

The 7th Annual Snowmen of Stroudsburg enjoy the 60 plus snowmen in downtown Stroudsburg **now thru February 21, 2025**. FMI visit www.gocollaborativestbg.com/snowmenofstroudsburg/

Free Christmas Meal at Zion United Lutheran Church

Zion United Lutheran Church in Brodheadsville will be providing free hot turkey, ham and lasagna dinners with all the trimmings on Christmas Day. Reservations are required by **December 22** by calling the church office at 570-992-6988 and a time will be given. **Pick up times will be between 1:00PM and 3:00PM on December 25.** Zion United Lutheran Church is located at 1919 Route 209 Brodheadsville. Volunteers are welcome to call the church office if they would like to help prepare, package, distribute, clean up or donate a food item.

AWSOM's Annual Home for the Holidays Foster Program 2024

Make the holidays brighter this year by fostering! Applications can be picked up at the AWSOM shelter, 3129 Godfrey Ridge Drive, Stroudsburg, PA or fill one out on line www.awsomanimals.org **Pick up through December 23, 2024. Drop off January 2, - January 5, 2025.** For more information info@awsomanimals.org or call 570-421-3647

NASME Model Train Show

The Nazareth Area Society of Model Engineers will hold their train shows on **December 27-30, 1:00PM-4:00PM** 212 Main Street, Stockertown, PA. More info: <https://www.nasmemrr.org> **See ad on page 5 for details**

Diamond Fire Co. New Year's Eve Bingo Extravaganza

Diamond Fire Company will hold a New Years Eve Bingo Extravaganza on **Tuesday, December 31, 2024. Doors open at 3:00 PM • Bingo starts 7:00PM.** 110 Main Street, Walnutport, PA. **See ad on page 5 for details**

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center First Day Hike

Join us for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg **Wednesday, January 1, 10:00AM-11:30AM.** Explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. Hike will start and end at the visitor center, 400 Belfast Road. Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring a water bottle. Registration is required. You can view and register for community programs online at <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/search/events?order=date&search=jacobsburg> **See January Community Events page 10**

Portland Hook & Ladder Vol. Fire Co to Host New Year's Day Bingo

The Portland Hook & Ladder Vol. Fire Co will host a New Year's Day Bingo on **Wednesday, January 1st, 2025** at the William Pensyl Social Hall, 111 State Street, Portland, PA. **See ad on page 16 for details**

EBUMCC Free Dinner

The East Bangor United Methodist Community Church welcomes you to a FREE Turkey Noodle Casserole Dinner on **Sunday, January 5, 4:00PM-4:30PM.** This is TAKE-OUT ONLY. The church is located at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA. Questions, call 610-588-4453 or visit ebumc.org.

Upcoming Events continued on page 4

Join us on

Thursday, December 19

for a Christmas/New Years Celebration

Doors Open 4:00PM - BINGO starts 6:30PM

*****NO RESERVED SEATING*****

No ticket needed \$20 \$25 & \$30 packages will be sold
****Increased payouts****

\$100 regular games • \$150 special games • \$1500 Jackpot!

Free giveaways to first 250 players

Complimentary snacks for all players

Winner takes all - rob the bank - 2 quickies - pull tabs 50/50

Plainfield Township Vol. Fire Co.

6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA.



PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP VOL. FIRE CO.

6480 SULLIVAN TRAIL, WIND GAP, PA 18091

Breakfast with Santa Claus

Saturday, December 21 8:00AM - 11:00AM

Join us for a morning of fun with Santa Claus! Enjoy a delicious breakfast, take a picture with Santa and let the kids do some fun activities! Santa Claus will be visiting until 11:00am.

Breakfast includes: Scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, toast, juice and coffee.

**Price: \$6 for children 5-12yrs
\$12 for adults/children 13yrs and up
Children 0-4 years Free**



Annual Santa Claus Toy Run same day (Plainfield Township residents only) starting at 12:00pm! If you are interested in having Santa Claus stop by your home to visit your child, please bring a wrapped gift with your child's name on it and a \$10.00 donation (per house) to the firehouse any Monday evening between 7pm and 9pm or call the firehouse at 610-863-7383 to setup a drop off. All gifts must be dropped off prior to **December 21st.** Santa Toy Run form will be posted in the discussions tab.

Bangor Elks Lodge #1106 Hoop Shoot

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024

with registration beginning at 8:30a.m.

Hoop Shoot starts at 9:00 a.m.

Washington Elementary School,

Washington Blvd. Bangor PA.

Eligibility for the Elks Hoop Shoot is determined by the age that the contestant will be on April 1, 2024. Group ages 8/9, 10/11, & 12/13 both boys and girls. FMI go to www.elks.org

For questions or concerns contact the lodge by email at bangorelks@gmail.com



Upcoming Event & Weekend Happening Listings for Non Profit Organizations

Upcoming Event & Weekend Happening listings are free to all Non-Profit organizations. Event listings include: Event, date, time, location and contact information ONLY.

Email:thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com or mail to The Belt and Beyond, P.O. Box 33, Bangor, PA. 18013

Washington Twsp, Vol. Fire Co. Meat & Moolah Bingo

The Washington Twsp, Vol. Fire Co. will hold a Meat & Moolah Bingo on **Saturday, January 18, 2025 (snow date January, 25, 2025)** at 920 Washington Blvd., Bangor, PA.
 See ad on page 5 for details

BLUE VALLEY FARM SHOW

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Sunday, January 19, 2025

7:30am-12:30pm

Adults \$14 Children 6-12 \$6 UNDER 6 FREE



SERVING OUR MONTHLY BREAKFAST SINCE 1991

Homemade Creamed Chipped Beef, Homefries (with or without onions), Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Pancakes, Kielbasa, Scrapple, Pork Sausage, Turkey Sausage, Bacon, Ham **DESSERT BAR**
DRINKS: Orange Juice, Apple Juice, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

**707 AMERICAN BANGOR ROAD (RT 512)(BETWEEN BANGOR & PEN ARGYL)
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 610-417-0959**



Elisa Yeagle of Upper Mt Bethel shot an 8 point buck in Upper Mt Bethel on Saturday, December 7, this was Elisa's first time hunting

Wedding Announcement



Anderson - Cesare

Jade Anderson and Reed Cesare were married on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at Blue Mountain Resort, Palmerton, PA.

Jade is the daughter of Joann Anderson, and Reed is the son of Tom and Alison Cesare all of Pen Argyl.

The couple resides in Belleville, New Jersey.

Weona Park Pool Pals Meeting January Meeting

The next meeting of the Weona Park Pool Pals will be held on **Monday, January 6, at 7:00PM** at the Pen Argyl Borough Hall, on Robinson Ave, Pen Argyl.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. FMI please call 610-863-6472. Donations to the Weona Park Pool Pals can be made on their website <https://weonapool.wixsite.com/website?> or checks can be made payable to: Pen Argyl Athletic Park Association and mail to: Weona Park Pool Pals, P.O. Box 42, Pen Argyl, PA 18072. All donations are tax deductible.



2242 RIDGE ROAD, BANGOR, PA18013

Whether you're looking for a home with space for a business, creative studio, a home office or expand the first floor living space into a mother in law suite the flexibility of this floor plan has endless possibilities! The home boasts original wide plank flooring, meticulously preserved to maintain its timeless appeal, and is complimented by many modern upgrades, including brand new granite counter tops, custom cabinetry, and stainless steel appliances in the fully renovated kitchen. The master bedroom features its own separate entrance, offering added privacy and has a large en suite complete with a walk-in closet. 4 additional spacious bedrooms, a sitting room/office, and full bathroom round out the second floor. The fully finished third floor is designed as the perfect entertaining space. Separate entrances ensure privacy between living and work areas. Additionally the roof has been replaced. Imagine hosting the holidays next year in this impeccable home. **\$474,900 Call to book your tour today!**



Nathan Powell, Realtor
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 Cell: 610-657-4678
refernatepowell@gmail.com



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"CABIN FEVER" SALE!
 Saturday, January 4th &
 Sunday, January 5th
10%-50% ~ SAVINGS THROUGHOUT THE STORE
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**Closing Christmas Eve and
 New Year's Eve at 1:30PM**

570-992-4525 137 Erin Lane, behind CVS Pharmacy,
 Brodheadsville
 Hours: Open Daily 10AM to 5PM




WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

920 Washington Blvd., Bangor, PA. 18013

Meat & Moolah Bingo

Saturday, January 18, 2025
 Snow Date Saturday, January 25, 2025 Check our Facebook page for updates!!!
Tickets \$25 in Advance - \$30 at the Door
 Doors open at 4:30 PM - Games begin at 6:00 PM

Kitchen & Bar Open NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE PERMITTED
 For tickets call Tighe 610-588 2113

Tickets sponsored by:
 Kneebone & Sons Farm and
 Butcher Shop, Bangor, PA.



BONO PIZZA

105 Broadway, Bangor, PA
 Pizza • Stromboli • Cheesesteaks • Subs • Pasta • Wings
610-588-6989

WEEKDAY SPECIALS

2 Slices, 16oz soda \$5.99+tax
 Sicilian by the Slice & Specialty Slices Daily
 Cheesesteak w/sauce & onions, 16oz soda \$11.99+tax
 New to the menu Chili & many more daily specials
 SPECIALS AVAILABLE FOR DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

**Merry Christmas &
 Happy New Year!**
 CLOSING CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00PM
 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
 OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE
 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

**SUNDAY FOOTBALL
 SPECIAL**
 1 Large Cheese Pizza, 8 Wings
 & 2 liter Soda
\$28.99+ tax AVAILABLE SUNDAY ONLY

CLOSED THANKSGIVING HOURS: MONDAY CLOSED; TUES.-THURS. 11AM-9PM;
 FRI.-SAT. 11AM-9:30PM; SUN. 11AM-9PM




MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Nazareth Area Society of Model Engineers
 212 Main Street, Stockertown, PA
 More info: <https://www.nasmemrr.org>
 (Parking behind Municipal Borough Hall)

December 27, 28, 29, 30
January 4, 5, 11, 12
 Hours are
 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Donations welcome
 Suggested Donations
 \$5.00 Adult
 \$1.00 Child



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Happy Holidays!

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111 N. Broadway Wind Gap, PA.

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM
GAMES BEGIN AT 6:40PM
KITCHEN OPEN

PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS
\$25 Small package
\$30 Large package

For tickets call: 610-703-8182 or purchase Friday night at the door.




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New Hours beginning in January
 Monday 9:00AM-3:00PM
 Tuesday: 8:00AM-6:00PM
 Wednesday: 9:00AM-3:00PM
 Thursday: 9:00AM-6:30PM
 Friday: 8:00AM-1:00AM
 Saturday/Sunday: Closed

101 Schanck Avenue, Pen Argyl, PA. 18072



Christmas, A Celebration of God's Greatest Gift

By Kathleen McFall

Christmas can be a busy season. Sometimes December can feel like a huge to-do-list.

It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of activities - shopping, wrapping gifts, decorating our homes, and hosting family gatherings.

The Christmas season is exciting. It is such a magical time filled with music in stores, colorful lights, and holiday parties and concerts.

However, It is important to make the time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

We need to embrace the greatest gift of all - the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, who came down to earth to save us.

At the heart of Christmas is the most profound love story - God's love for us.

God sent His Son to be born into this imperfect world so that we may be forever changed by His perfect life. The unending love of God is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

This is the essence of Christmas. God's Son has arrived. He loves and guides us, forgives our sins, and helps us live with purpose and faith.

On this holy day, we remember Jesus' humble beginnings, reflect on the magnitude of God's love, and ponder God's amazing gift to the world.

While it is important to focus on the story of Christmas, we should not overlook the gifts that are reflected in the weeks before Christmas - the Advent season.

Advent is the four-week season Christians celebrate and prepare for the birth of Jesus, Advent reflects on the gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy - gifts that are part of our Christmas celebration.

Our first Advent gift, Hope, is the spirit of Christmas. It is the expectation of something good. Hope is a powerful force that propels us forward even in the face of adversity. We need to trust in God to fill our hearts and let hope overflow.

We should never give up hope. Every day we are faced with choices that define who we are.

Hope is not wishful thinking. It urges us forward on life's journey. Do we respond with hope or fear?

The Christmas season is a time to renew our hope and lean on our faith, letting go of worry and doubt. Christmas is here. We need to celebrate the hope of the Christmas story. Fear can trap us, but faith empowers us to move forward. As we connect our hope with faith, we release our fear and affirm hope.

This Christmas choose faith over fear, trusting God's plan and courageously step ahead even when the path seems uncertain. Take each step forward in faith and build your trust in His divine guidance.

Christmas is also a time of Peace, our second Advent gift. It is important to remember that we're never alone. The gift of peace is the reality Jesus shared with us in his ministry. It is our heritage. Prayer and meditation can help us rise above our troubles.

In the bustling holiday season, it's easy to lose sight of the tranquility that God offers amid the holiday preparations. Remember, the true peace comes from a deep trust in God.

Find calm in moments. Amid the hustle of the holiday season, may we be led to find peace.

Peaceful living does not mean isolation from noise or turmoil. It means calm even in the middle of all the activities. At the time of year when we seem busy and rushed, we can rely on the peace of God that resides within us to promote calm in our lives. Prayer can help us stay centered, serene and relaxed so we can be an instrument of peace.

The third Advent gift is love. This love is about giving and extending love through difficult times. During this Christmas season, we are reminded to open ourselves to an even deeper, wider love.

Opening our minds and hearts to the healing, forgiving, empowering power of love includes opportunities to practice loving kindness. Love gives us a zest for life.

Love is the gift we can withhold or generously offer. When we respond with love, we commit to compassion.

It is often said that nothing is more important than the power of love. In the Gospel of John, 3:16, Jesus reminds us that He came because "God so loved the world."

God is love and He is active and at work in our lives. Events, feelings, thoughts, and perceptions are temporary. The love of God is ever present.

When we connect with love, we connect with the most powerful energy in the world. The energy of love enables us to create a holy connection with God, ourselves and others in such a way that love can transform.

Love will guide our path and enable us to be who we are and love as God loves, unconditionally and without judgment. Love is the greatest of the spiritual gifts. The nature of God is love.

The fourth message of Advent is joy. Whether it is sunny or stormy outside or within us - we can view our lives through the lens of joy.

We think of the Christmas season as joy filled, but some people may experience this as a time of grief and sadness. Depending on the circumstances, others may be feeling loss, loneliness and even fear. However, joy swells in the presence of gratitude. It nudges us to open our eyes wider especially when for others, life seems to be a struggle.

In addition to reflecting on these gifts from God, we all have gifts to share this holiday season and throughout the year. Publisher Candy Martin noted: "Christmas is a season of giving. As the holidays approach, we donate meals and contribute to charitable organizations. How wonderful it would be if we could carry this spirit of a generous heart filled with love and helping others throughout the

year."

She added: "Giving doesn't necessarily have to be monetary. We can give the gift of time to help others. We can all help by sharing our treasure, time, or talents."

Martin concluded: "As a society our hearts are more willing to give and to do good and help others during the Christmas season. Jesus wants us to do that daily. Both the giver and the receiver are blessed in doing good deeds."

Similarly, Sir Norman Mac Ewen, Air Vice Marshal in the Royal Air Force stated: "Happiness is not so much in having as sharing. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Joy brightens our views and enables us to recognize even more wonders. We delight in the birth of each new day and each new segment of our lives.

Christmas marks the conclusion of our Advent journey, but rather than an ending, it's the start of a new chapter. We celebrate those pivotal moments when the true essence and meaning of life becomes crystal clear.

What is Christmas if not the fulfillment of hope, peace, love and joy? The world longed for the Messiah and Jesus arrived. We may face hardships, but the gifts of hope, peace, love and joy can see us through.


Embrace the magical moments of this season. May you be filled with compassion, kindness, and love.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us savor every moment with the hope, peace, love and joy so we can experience God's love and promise - the promise of new beginnings. Let us seek His guidance to bless our days with purpose and grace as we thank God for His Son, the greatest gift of all time.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

AT THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS IS THE MOST PROFOUND LOVE STORY - GOD'S LOVE FOR US.

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7:00PM & 11:00PM
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Led by Pastor P. James Thomas
 Special music 30 minutes prior to service
**Bell Choir will perform at
the 11:00PM service**



404 BROADWAY
BANGOR, PA

Grace United Methodist Church, Pen Argyl
 404 E Mountain Avenue
 Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Candlelit Christmas Eve
 December 24, 2024
 3:00 PM
 Family Service
 7:00 PM
 Traditional Service



**East Bangor United Methodist
Community Church**
Welcomes you to their
Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 p.m.
*Come enjoy a service of carols &
candlelighting*



136 W. Central Ave (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA 18013 ✨ (610) 588-4453
 Also available on Zoom - visit ebumc.org

*Christmas Eve
candlelight gathering*

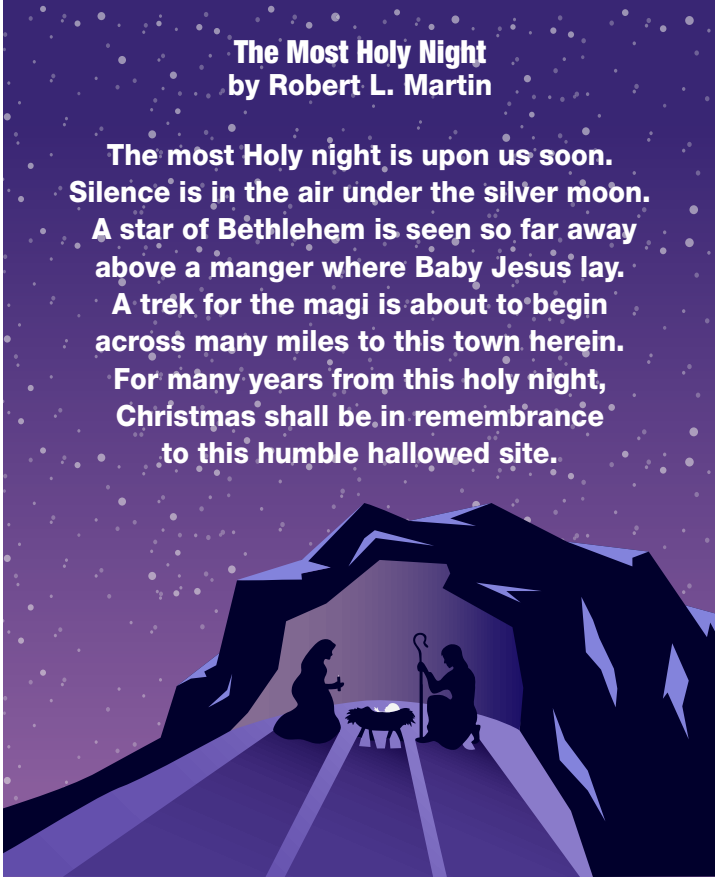


December 24th
5pm

Hopesprings
Community of Faith
301 Market Street
Bangor, PA 18013

The Most Holy Night
 by Robert L. Martin

The most Holy night is upon us soon.
 Silence is in the air under the silver moon.
 A star of Bethlehem is seen so far away
 above a manger where Baby Jesus lay.
 A trek for the magi is about to begin
 across many miles to this town herein.
 For many years from this holy night,
 Christmas shall be in remembrance
 to this humble hallowed site.



*May the miracle of Christmas
fill your heart with
warmth, peace and love.*

*Merry Christmas
from everyone at
The Belt and Beyond.*



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to our customers. Thank you for
your continued patronage!*

Baarda Farms & Denise's Designs

Closing December 24, Christmas Eve 12:00PM.

We will be closed for the month of January.

Re-open February 1, 2025.

**WINTER HOURS: THURSDAY - SUNDAY 9:00AM-4:00PM WEATHER PERMITTING
1566 River Road, Mt Bethel, PA - 570 897-0135**

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Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

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Christmas season and a
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Christmas*

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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Sparkle with love, laughter
and goodwill.
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*





Thomas Greenhouse & Country Store

"Shop local at a family owned business. Growing for over 100 years"

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for your patronage. See you in the spring!

Kyle and Lisa

 1586 Mt. Bethel Highway, Mt Bethel, PA. 484-661-6553
Open daily through December 23rd



Frank's Deli and Farm Market

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Frank's Deli

Thank you to our wonderful customers for your patronage!

REMEMBER US FOR YOUR HOLIDAY CATERING NEEDS.
3ft & 6ft subs, party trays and platters, and wrap platters

Closing December 24 at 1:00 PM
Closed Christmas Day 🎄
Open December 31 Regular hours 🌨️
Open New Year's Day, Jan.1st until 1:00 PM

2671 N. Delaware Drive, Mt Bethel, PA. 570-583-2102
HOURS: Monday-Friday 5:30AM-3:00PM; Saturday 6:00AM-3:00PM; Sunday 6:30AM-3:00PM

New Smoothie and Milkshake Bar Now Open!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from **HH OUTDOOR POWERSPORTS**

1169 Mt Bethel, Highway Mt Bethel, PA. 610-588-6614

www.hhoutdoorps.com

THANK YOU TO OUR READERS, ADVERTISERS AND FOLLOWERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!




Diamond Fire Company

110 Main Street, Walnutport

New Years Eve Bingo Extravaganza

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

1 Session Regular Games Pay \$200
Jr. Jackpot Pay \$1,000 • Jackpot Pay \$2,000
1 Winner take all • 1 Quickie Free Dabber

Hot Meal included 4-6:30pm
Doors open at 3pm • Bingo starts at 7pm
Drawing for 2 Free Packages for Saturday for the year of 2025

\$55 IN ADVANCE • \$60 DAY OF EVENT
ALL SALES FINAL • FMI call 610-767-8476

ATM Available



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

C F L G Y O J A E I M A T Q N L U S B F
M C L E W C H R I S T M A S W A B C Y H
U Y N E J M A R E N M P T E N U T A E W
V W X H O O P T A O R E B C N M D O T W
S R C Y M N R S C P E Y S E L I T G B R
H E Y B M I L E S I L R O C L X A I R E
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A E E O K I A O D T W E N L K I D M K N
X R E S T O C K I N G I O C L U F B C P
C E L C I U O I M L I E W K H W S T D Z
T E M I S T L E T O E A M P B N G R S F
A C I O K M A S Z T E Q A R K I O P T S
U Y G A J F J E O I J P N E B D H U L W
X J O L L Y I C B J W X I T S E F R N V

SANTA REINDEER GIFTS LIGHTS
JOLLY CHRISTMAS COOKIES NOEL
MISTLETOE HOLIDAY BELIEVE STOCKING
ELF SNOWMAN GRINCH WREATH



"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

~ Calvin Coolidge

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center January 2025 Community Programs

Snowshoes and Hiking Poles Available - Monday thru Friday, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM. Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth. Borrow snowshoe equipment to use on Jacobsburg's trails this winter! Snowshoes are available for folks of any age or shoe size, including small children. Snowshoes will not be made available during times of insufficient snow cover, at least six inches of snow is required. To borrow equipment, you must provide a driver's license or other form of state issued identification. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. You can check our website for current winter conditions and snow depth:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/WinterReport/Pages/default.aspx>

First Day Hike - Wednesday, January 1, 2025 10:00AM to 11:30AM and Wednesday, January 1, 2025 1:00:PM to 2:30PM. Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2025! Join us for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg. We will explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. The hike will start and end at the visitor center at 400 Belfast Road. Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Registration is required.

Women in the Wild - First Day Hike - Wednesday, January 1, 2025 1:00PM to 2:30PM. Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2025! Join fellow women hikers for a three-mile interpretive hike at Jacobsburg. We will explore the fields of the Homestead Trail to enjoy views of Blue Mountain and the village of Belfast. The hike will start and end at the visitor center at 400 Belfast Road. Children must be at least 5 years old if walking on their own. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Registration is required.

Women in the Wild is a monthly series of outdoor programs held at state parks throughout the Southeast. Each month of 2025 there will be an opportunity to get outdoors, learn a new skill, and have fun in a relaxed, friendly, and affirming environment. Are you drawn to the outdoors and interested in exploring new hobbies and wilderness skills, but you're not enthusiastic about entering a hyper-masculine space to do so? This series is designed especially for you! Choose from activities like archery, paddleboarding, rock climbing, and birdwatching. Check out the event at your closest state park or follow Women in the Wild to a new park each month. We're excited to spend the year with you trying new things! Not sure if this series is right for you? Contact Lauren at 610-746-2801 with any questions!

Family Science Night - Snowy Owls - Friday, January 10, 2025 6:30PM to 8:00PM. This winter is shaping up to be a good one for catching a glimpse of a Snowy Owl! Bring your family along to Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center to learn about the winter irruptions of Snowy Owls and how you can help track their population. We'll be screening "Magic of the Snowy Owl". Learn about the intelligent and charming Snowy Owl and how it survives in its bleak Arctic home. The program starts at 6:30pm and the movie starts promptly at 7:00pm. Registration is required. You may preview the film online:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/magic-of-the-snowy-owl-introduction/7833/>

Speaker Series: The Ecology of Black Vultures in Pennsylvania

- Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:00 to 7:00PM. Black Vultures have expanded their range and increased in numbers in Pennsylvania over the last 40 years. Despite their abundance and the critical role they play in our ecosystem, little is known about their basic ecology in Pennsylvania. From nesting to feeding to daily movements, we'll explore the world of Black Vultures in Pennsylvania and what makes them such a successful species. This month's guest speaker is David Barber, Senior Research Biologist with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Registration is required. You can view and register for community programs online at <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/search/events?order=date&search=jacobsburg> If you need an accommodation to participate in a program, please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. Interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs with at least seven days notice.

Area Food Banks & Food Pantries

Portland Upper Mt Bethel Food Bank P.U.M.P.

The Portland Upper Mt Bethel Food Pantry P.U.M.P. is open **Mondays 8:30AM to 11:30AM**. P.U.M.P. is located at 111 State Street in Portland. The phone number is 570-897-5847.

Mission of Love Food Bank

Every Tuesday 9:00AM to 12:00PM, 555 North Main Street, Bangor, PA. Questions contact Pastor Frank Pons (570) 807-7794.

Helping Hands Food Pantry at Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Drive Thru Pick Up parking lot opens at 4:30 PM. 915 North 5th Street, Stroudsburg, PA. For more information contact the church 570-421-0750

St. Elizabeth/St. Joseph Food Ministry

Corner of Genoga St. and Rte. 512, Wind Gap. The **second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9:00AM-10:00AM**. Contact Katherine Kerler for more information: 610-863-7542

John Wesley Covenant Church

19 West Street in Wind Gap. The church offers free meals to the community **every third Thursday of the month.**

East Bangor United Methodist Community Church AA Meeting

AA Meeting - **Saturday, December 2, 8:00PM.**
136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512). East Bangor, PA 18013

AA Meeting - McMichaels UMC

AA meets at the church every **Wednesday at 12:00PM** and **Saturday evening at 6:30PM**. There is no charge for the class. All meetings are confidential. Many people have found this class to be helpful and life-changing. If you or someone you know needs help in overcoming this issue, please feel free to attend. McMichaels United Methodist Church is located at 104 White Church Rd. (corner of Rte. 715 and White Church Rd.) Saylorsburg, PA.

"Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us."

~ David Cameron



Bangor Borough Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



Pen Argyl Borough Christmas Tree Lighting



East Bangor Christmas Tree Lighting



Lower Mount Bethel Township Christmas Tree lighting



All Aspects at the Barn Santa's Christmas Market and Holiday Festival

Photos by Lisa Newberry

Santa's Christmas Market and Holiday Festival was held on Saturday, December 7, at All Aspects at the Barn in Mt Bethel. [See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



**East Bangor United Methodist Church
One Starry Night**

Photos by Lisa Newberry

East Bangor United Methodist Church held One Starry Night on December 14 & 15. Visitors experienced what life was like in the little town of Bethlehem when Jesus was born.

[See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



Bangor Area High School Band & Choir Winter Concerts

Photos by Lisa Newberry

Bangor Area High School recently held their winter chorus and band concerts at the Performing Arts Theater at Bangor High School. [See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



Pen Argyl High School Winter Concert

Photos by Cory Dailey

The Pen Argyl Area High School winter band and chorus concert was held on Saturday, December 14, at the Wind Gap Middle School. [See more photos on our Facebook page](#)



New in the Bangor Public Library



Adult Fiction - Song of sorrows and fate by LJ Andrews; Reign of stars and fire by LJ Andrews; Vilest things by Chloe Gong; The children of Jocasta: a novel by Natalie Haynes Beautiful bastard: a novel by Christina Lauren The housemaid's wedding: a short story by Freida McFadden Ever constant by Tracie Peterson; The mistletoe mystery: a maid novella by Nita Prose; Gabriel's rapture by Sylvain Reynard; Gabriel's inferno by Sylvain Reynard The mistletoe kisser by Lucy Score; The December market: a novel by RaeAnne Thyne; Stuart Woods' golden hour by Brett Battles.

Adult Non Fiction - Social security for dummies by Jonathan Peterson; The serviceberry: abundance and reciprocity in the natural world by Robin Wall Kimmerer; Half baked harvest quick & cozy by Tieghan Gerard; Heartbreak is the national anthem: how Taylor Swift reinvented pop music by Rob Sheffield.

Large Print Adult Fiction - The blue hour by Paula Hawkins.

Easy Fiction - 12 Days of Christmas; The creature of habit tries his best by Jennifer E Smith 1980-; Elves are the worst! By Alex Willan.

Junior Fiction - Dog Man. Big Jim begins by Dav Pilkey 1966-; The squad by Christina Soontornvat.

Young Adult Fiction - A Queen of Ice by Elise Kova; To Shatter the night by Katherine Quinn.

The Bangor Public Library is located at 39 S. Main Street, Bangor, PA. The phone number is 610-588 4136. **Hours: Mon., 1-8pm; Tues., 10am-8pm; Wed., 1-8pm; Thurs., 10am-8pm; Fri., 1-5pm; Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun. Closed.**

Christmas Cookies in a Jar

Christmas cookies are a holiday tradition. We love baking cookies, eating them and giving them as gifts. This recipe is perfect for holiday gift giving, Print the directions and attach with ribbon and a cookie cutter around the jar and you have an easy yet delicious gift for friends and family.

Ingredients:

- 1/3 c. sugar
- 1/3 c. packed brown sugar
- 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/8 tsp. baking soda
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup vanilla chips
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract



Directions:

In a quart size glass jar, layer the sugar and brown sugar packing well between layers.

Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and spoon into a mason jar. Top with oats, cranberries and chips. Cover with lid.

To make cookies: Pour cookie mix into a large mixing bowl; stir to combine. Beat in butter, egg and vanilla. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake at 375°F for 8-10 min. or until browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Blue Mountain Community Library Fundraiser



The Blue Mountain Community Library is once again sponsoring a Christmas Tree Fundraiser this year. Anyone wishing to honor or memorialize a loved one or a pet may purchase an ornament to hang on our Christmas Tree for \$5.00 each. The Fundraiser will continue through **December 31, 2024**. Please consider helping the library by purchasing an ornament to decorate the Christmas Tree.



Visit our Book Nook to purchase books for the reader on your holiday list. Items include fiction and non-fiction books for adults, young adults and juvenile readers, as well as large print materials and puzzles.

New Items at Blue Mountain Community Library

Adult Fiction – The Wishing Bridge, Viola Shipman; The Grey Wolf, Louise Penny; The Briar Club, Kate Quinn; The Waiting, Michael Connelly; The Merry Matchmaker, Sheila Roberts; The Baking Games, Rachel Hanna; The Memory Dress, Jade Beer

Adult Fiction – Large Print - The Christmas Cottage, Davis Bunn; One Big Happy Family, Susan Mallery; The December Market, Rae Anne Thyne.

Adult Non-Fiction –The Situation Room, George Stephanopoulos.

The Blue Mountain Community Library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. **Hours are 10-12, Monday thru Saturday mornings and 6-8, Monday and Thursday evenings.** All information is available on our Facebook page and website @www.bmcl.org

CHRISTMAS

WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY



C	F	L	G	Y	O	J	A	E	I	M	A	T	Q	N	L	U	S	B	F
M	C	L	E	W	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	W	A	B	C	Y	H
U	Y	N	E	J	M	A	R	E	N	M	P	T	E	N	U	T	A	E	W
V	W	X	H	O	O	P	T	A	O	R	E	B	C	N	M	D	O	T	W
S	R	C	Y	M	N	R	S	C	P	E	Y	S	E	L	I	T	G	B	R
H	E	Y	B	M	I	L	E	S	I	L	R	O	C	L	X	A	I	R	E
L	I	G	H	T	S	O	R	L	P	F	A	C	O	B	I	E	A	J	A
R	N	A	O	F	R	V	A	S	G	Q	I	H	T	F	X	E	W	P	T
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P	E	W	N	A	E	I	O	N	N	M	I	S	C	G	T	F	L	E	I
A	E	E	O	K	I	A	O	D	T	W	E	N	L	K	I	D	M	K	N
X	R	E	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	I	O	C	L	U	F	B	C	P
C	E	L	C	I	U	O	I	M	L	I	E	W	K	H	W	S	T	D	Z
T	E	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	A	M	P	B	N	G	R	S	F
A	C	I	O	K	M	A	S	Z	T	E	Q	A	R	K	I	O	P	T	S
U	Y	G	A	J	F	J	E	O	I	J	P	N	E	B	D	H	U	L	W
X	J	O	L	L	Y	I	C	B	J	W	X	I	T	S	E	F	R	N	V

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**For more information on advertising your business in
the Business Card Directory,
Contact us at: 610-704-6818 or email us at: thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com**

Scooters at Millers

96 Mt Bethel Highway, (Rt 512), Bangor, PA 18013 - 610-419-4584

We Wish You a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Last Saturday for Photos with the Grinch & Cindi Lou



Saturday, December 21st

11:00 AM -2:00PM

We have all your holiday needs: Handmade arts & crafts, wreaths, grave blankets, holiday decor, wine, coffee, candles, chocolate, meat, feed, wood pellets, propane, stocking stuffers and more! Don't forget the rock salt available by the bag or pallet!

Closing Christmas Eve - 3:00pm • Closed Christmas Day

Closing New Year's Eve - 3:00pm

Closed New Year's Day

**Hours: Monday thru Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm;
Saturday: 9:00am- 4:00pm; Sunday: 9:00am-3:00pm**

MT BETHEL DINER

2600 N Delaware Dr., Mt Bethel, PA 570-897-6409

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Sophie and the staff at MT Bethel Diner

Closing Christmas & New Year's Eve

at 2:00 PM • Closed Christmas

Open New Year's Day

NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIALS

PORK & SAUERKRAUT - w/mashed potatoes. includes soup or salad, and dessert.

SMOKED PORK CHOPS - w/2 sides, soup or salad and dessert.

FRESH ROAST PORK - w/2 sides, soup or salad and dessert.



New Year's Day Bingo

January 1, 2025

2:00pm

Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1

William Pensyl Social Hall

111 State Street, Portland, PA

New Year's Day guaranteed minimum payout of \$6,700

1st and 2nd Specials \$400

3rd Special JACKPOT COVERALL \$1500

4th Special \$400

5th Special JACKPOT COVERALL \$2000

ALL regular games payout at \$100 each *** Total of 25 games

We do not sell advance tickets to this special bingo event



Doors open at 10:00am

Ticket Office Opens at

12:00pm

Bingo begins at 2:00pm

Kitchen open for lunch and snacks.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to preview the full schedule.

**Look for the next issue of
The Belt and Beyond on
January 9, 2025**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Wishing You a Safe and
Happy New Year!**