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“Doings” of the Advent Historical Society

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The Advent Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation [EIN 84-2266811] qualified to receive tax-deductible gifts to support the work of the Society.

Donations in the form of checks should be made payable to The Advent Historical Society and mailed to:

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Credit card and PayPal donations can now also be accepted online via our website, our Facebook page, and by using the following QR code:



(Directions: Use the camera on your smart phone to scan the QR code, which will allow you to access the online donation site for Advent Historical Society.)



Funding provided, in part, through a grant made possible by the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and the Centre County Board of Commissioners.

A Message From Our Board President

Dear Friends of the Advent Historical Society:

The Advent Historical Society has accomplished a number of its strategic goals this year. Participation in the 2023 online day of giving at Centre Gives was a success, raising over \$6,000 to help support our Music at the Advent concert series. Thanks to the leadership of Jeff Watson, we again presented three programs featuring local musical groups and solo performers. Programs for next year will be announced in the spring. The Marsh Creek Advent Church & Cemetery is now officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service and is included in the Centre County Historical Society Passport program.

The *Home Folks* exhibit, based on family photographs and the Holt’s Hollow columns written by Emma Watson in the *Centre Democrat* from 1924 to 1945, opened in the refurbished Barn Gallery. Additional renovation of the Barn Gallery will provide meeting/classroom space for small group events.

Thank you for your contributions and support that make all this work possible. Best wishes for the holidays and a Happy New Year to all, both near and far. We hope to see you next year as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Advent Church.

Barbara Franco
President

Music at the Advent: A Successful 2023 Season

The 2023 Music at the Advent season opened Memorial Day with a lively singalong led by Randy Stauffer. Thanks to the local Boy Scout Troop 45 for leading the opening ceremony and supporting the singing next to Jeff Watson at the piano. Guests visited our new *Home Folks* exhibit in the Barn Gallery and enjoyed a pie social following the concert.



Music at the Advent, cont'd.

The July 16th concert featured the Tussey Mountain Moonshiners, with special guest artist Lindsey Fyfe, whose performance honored the memory of her father, Dick Fyfe, an accomplished folk and bluegrass musician. A standing-room-only crowd heartily joined in the singalong choruses, and the fabulous acoustics of the old timber building echoed with the final chorus, "May the Circle Be Unbroken."



The Advent Historical Society's final concert on October 7, 2023, featured the Bellefonte Community Band, as well as talented folk musician and master harmonica player Richard Sleigh, who entertained the audience with his stories, singing, and guitar and harmonica playing featuring songs from his repertoire of Celtic, Americana, and popular tunes.



The Harvest Home festival included a display of farm implements (courtesy of Dennis Reese and Don Wesley) with the challenge to correctly identify all 10 items. Marian Weaver won the \$25.00 Walmart gift card for being the only person with all 10 correct answers! A children's table also offered activities for the youngsters, including decorating pumpkins.

A display of preserves, pickle recipes, and canning supplies illustrated the methods for preserving the harvest. Best of all, the "Country Kitchen" table offered baked goods, preserves, and the ever-popular homemade pies for sale.



Building & Grounds Update

Chaired by Don Wesley, and with excellent support from Josh King, a new light fixture and light pole were installed and wiring upgraded. The church doors have been repainted. One of our tents was damaged by a windstorm in May, and we may have to repair or replace some of the sections.



Enclosed with this Newsletter is a short survey to provide feedback on our programs and the opportunity to contribute to the Society's work of preservation and local history. As a registered 403(c) nonprofit organization, your contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Advent Historical Society!