

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

January 3, 2018

Shimmering Faith

As the Christmas season slowly comes to an end, I am reminded of the litany called "Now the Work of Christmas Begins" composed by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Thurman's words help me re-calibrate life's focus with the dawn of each New Year. May they do the same for you. If you're looking for a word to take with you in 2018, then make a note that in worship January 7th, we will be selecting Star Gift Cards.

See you in Worship!

Lou

Inside

- All-Church Luncheon & Congregational Meeting
- Mission Trip Informational Meetings
- Exploring Membership Class
- Adult Sunday School Classes
- Lenten Bible Series
- PW Circles
- Dinner for 7 or 8
- Spring Women's Retreat
- Course for Personal & Spiritual Growth
- Babysitter Training

Upcoming Events:

Lenten Small Group Registration

Lenten Small Group registration will begin on **January 21st**.

We will be studying the book "*The Twelve Disciples*" by Douglas Connelly

Group meetings begin week of February 11th.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP January

January 7	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 14	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 21	12:30 - 4:00	Lunch & "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
January 28	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship

Save the Date:

Calling all women in the church.
We are having our
Spring Women's Retreat
on April 14th at The Lodges with
Rev. Candace Nyiri
leading us.

Mark your calendars now
to join us. More info to come.

MidSHIP Schedule January

January 7	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 14	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 21	12:30 - 4:00	Lunch & "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
January 28	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship

Lenten Devotional Opportunity

The Adult Discipleship committee invites members of the congregation to share their faith story via "God Moments: A Lenten Devotional 2018." This devotional will be compiled by congregants willing to write down and share a "God moment" from their personal journeys.

A God moment is any moment you have experienced God's presence, seen his mercy, or felt his love. Devotions will be written in a format similar to Our Daily Bread: title, short scripture verse(s), two to four short paragraphs, and a one or two sentence prayer. We will also be adding a mission prayer focus to each devotion, so they can be used to prepare us for Easter and hold our mission programs up in prayer.

A one-page flyer with more specific details about writing a devotion and a sign-up sheet are available in Fellowship Hall. They will be due by January 21, 2018 and submitted ideally via email. If you can't type your devotion, we can accept a handwritten one if it is turned in by January 14, 2018.

Email Lynne Graziano at lynnegraziano@gmail.com or call her at (404) 226-4742 for more details. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays through December, or by emailing Lynne or Cheryl Betts at gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org. Submissions can be turned in to one of these emails as well.

Thanks in advance for sharing your God Moments with GPC.

S. Carolina Mission Trip Meeting Sunday, January 14 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall



For many years GPC has sent a mission team to Johns Island, SC to assist Habitat for Humanity in building homes. This is a great opportunity to get the jump on Spring and help those in need. The 7 days (April 23 - 30) include the one day drive down and back. Volunteers 18 and older will work on-site, or at the Restore resale establishment. We will also have the opportunity to be a tourist and take in some of the charm of Charleston. The church van provides our transportation and our lodging and food are provided by Habitat. A donation of \$175 per person is requested to cover the cost of building materials and lodging while we are there. Please call Jerry Cleaver @ 717-359-0419 for any additional details.

Mexico Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for all those interested in this year's trip on

Sunday, January 28
@ 7:00 p.m. in
the MacAskill Room.



Come and learn more!
No commitment needed at this point.

Trip dates are July 9 - 16

REACH Workcamp Meeting

February 11, 2018
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
in the MacAskill Room



Plan on joining us at this meeting if you are a high-schooler having completed ninth grade and are interested in going to South Carolina June 15 - 23, 2018

Youth Club Spring Term

Youth Club Spring Term begins on January 3rd. Any youth in Grades 3-5 are welcome at Youth Club on Wednesday afternoons immediately after school. See Cheryl if you have any questions. A new parents schedule will be available at the CE table to sign up for the weeks you can help.

All-Church Luncheon & Congregational Meeting - January 28th

The meeting begins with lunch at 12 Noon, followed by the Congregational Meeting at 12:30 for the purpose of reviewing the annual report, and approving the terms of call for the pastors. Please do the Fellowship Team a favor and let us know how many will be attending from your family so we have enough food for lunch. You can let us know by leaving a message in the church office (717-334-1235, ext 4), returning the slip below via offering plate, snail mail, or e-mail to Rev. Lou Nyiri (gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)

Suggested donation of \$3 per person is requested.

*** Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, January 24, 2018 ***

----- Tear off -----

All Church Lunch & Congregational Meeting

Name _____ will be attending the lunch and meeting.

I will have _____ in my party.

COURSE FOR PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

What is the church, really? At least one answer to that question is this: The church is the body of Christ on earth. Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). The Holy Spirit has given each of us unique gifts to carry out God's work in the world. It is not necessarily easy, however, to discover our gifts or to develop and use them effectively. That's why our congregation is offering the course "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts."

Where do you fit into Christ's body, the church? The answer lies in the unique gifts God has given you. This course will provide a renewed understanding of who God created you to be and God's design for Christian community. Participants will find clues to their spiritual gifts in the "Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory" and other gifts discovery activities. They will then explore opportunities to further develop and use their gifts in the congregation and community. The class will start April 8th and meet during the 11 am service for 8 weeks. You must attend all 8 weeks. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Course fee- \$17

Divorce Care Support

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church will offer DivorceCare support services through its Stephen Ministry. Divorce and separation are painful and stressful, and people going through them can feel very isolated.

DivorceCare is a nationally recognized support group that meets weekly to help people experiencing separation and/or divorce face the many challenges facing them. DivorceCare is a faith-based program, which runs in 13 week cycles. Each meeting incorporates a video seminar with top experts on divorce and recovery, followed by time spent as a group discussing the video and talking about the challenges that the members of the group may be facing.

The next cohort at GPC for DivorceCare will begin January 7, 2018. The Group will meet Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7 in the Eisenhower Lounge, and will meet every Sunday for 13 weeks at the same time. The groups will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Tassin and Leslie Casteel, and require pre-registration.

The cost is \$15, and includes a workbook (confidential financial aid available upon request). Childcare is available upon request. Let us know when registering for the group.

If interested, please contact Susan at susantgpc@gmail.com or call the church office 717-334-1235, ext. 4 (Rev. Nyiri). Further information, including free daily e-mail sign-up can be located at www.divorcecare.org.

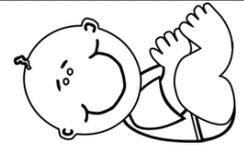
2018 Chancel Flowers

The new calendar is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to sign up for the Chancel flowers in 2018.



Babysitter Training

January 27, 8a-4p



The American Red Cross has created a course for Babysitters that includes sessions on leadership, age characteristics, problem solving, safety, communication and first aid. On top of this we will be practicing skills in the care and feeding of young children. The class will be led by Becky Stabler in the Eisenhower Lounge, proud provider of American Red Cross classes.

For registration, or for questions, please call Becky at 717-688-5183. Members get a discounted rate.

Wednesday, January 27,
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
\$50 members; \$65 non-members

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you. We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for December 11 - January 7 is Benjy Conover at 717-357-9484 and January 8-February 11 is Pat Lowe at 717-337-9903.



PW CIRCLES**Mary Martha Circle**

Thursday, January 11, 5:00 p.m.
Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
Lesson 5: Hebrews 3: 1-6; 11

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, January 15, 1:00 p.m.
Paideia House - 1st floor
Lesson 4 & 5
Leader: Jean Holder
4) Gen. 28:10-22; Daniel 3:8-30
Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1: 5-17, 1:26-38
Luke 2: 8-14; Hebrews 1:3-6; 13:1-2
5) Hebrews 3: 1-6; 11

Esther Circle

Thursday, January 18, 9:30 a.m.
Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
Leader: Susan Kolmer
Lesson 5: Hebrews 3: 1-6; 11

Contribution Envelopes

Please pick up your 2018 contribution envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please note that some of the envelope numbers have changed. Anyone with an envelope number over 378 has been "reassigned".

Stephen Ministry

Create an
Atmosphere of
Acceptance
Reassurance (of God's love) and
Encouragement.

If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister who "caares," please contact Lou at the church office 717-334-1235.

New Year Blessings

Brrrr! It's cold outside! Warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks are a basic human need during this time of year. The Girl Scouts have decided to take one of the sections of the Blessings Box and use it to stock these items new for those in need. If you're interested in supporting this endeavor, please drop these items for all ages and sizes in the Blessings Box or the church office. Together, we can help warm hands and hearts.

"Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization.

For the month of:

January

We will be collecting items for

The Gettysburg Soup Kitchen: Chef's knives, LARGE serving trays (from a Kitchen Supply Store), reams of printer paper, Mr. Clean floor cleaner, Dawn dish detergent, V-8 or similar vegetable juice (NOT tomato juice), deodorant, paper napkins, pot holders, dish towels, gift cards for Kennie's or Giant, and gas cards (bring gift cards to the church office).

**Exploring Membership
January 14, 2018
@ 12:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in learning more about GPC, plan to attend the Exploring Membership Class on Sunday, January 14 at 12:00 p.m. Following a lunch together, you'll have a chance to learn more about Presbyterians and opportunities for spiritual nurture and service here at GPC, and to meet our staff. Following the class, you may meet with the Session and join the church if you so desire. Childcare is available. Call the church office to register. (717-334-1235, ext. 5)

New Elective Sunday School Class

Sunday, January 7th begins a 6-week study of "The Good and Beautiful God" with Bonnie Wright as facilitator. This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by—to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed—and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God.

Signup sheet is on CE Table in Fellowship Hall.

Books are \$10.

Dinners for Seven or Eight

The Dinners for 7 or 8 Program provides an opportunity for sharing a meal and fellowship with your fellow church members, in the relaxed atmosphere of individual homes. Three casual, adults-only dinners will be held in March, April and May. We particularly encourage new members to participate as an easy way to get to know your new church family. Although the option is offered to only substitute if needed, we encourage everyone to be a regular participant as groups are often full and substitutes are not called.

Those agreeing to host a dinner at their home are asked to prepare the main dish, and notify the other participants in their group of 7-8 so they may bring an appropriate vegetable, salad or dessert, as assigned on the schedule. Rather than have all participants meet on a fixed date, the host for each month is asked to coordinate the best date in the month for their group.

Participants are requested to sign up for the program by 21 February 2017, and Group Schedules will be sent out by 25 February. You are encouraged to send your information via email to the Dinner Coordinator, but you may also fill out the paper Registration Form and leave it at the church office, or call the Dinner Coordinator with your information.

Coordinator: Randy Smith (717)398-2414 rksmith71@comcast.net

**Dinners for Seven or Eight
Registration Form 2018**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS : _____

TOWN: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Service normally attended: ___ 8:15 ___ 9:30 ___ 11:00

I WISH TO BE A: ___ Regular ___ Substitute Only

I WISH TO HOST: ___ March ___ April ___ May

Place a 1/2/3 to prioritize the month you prefer.

I can host more than one month, if needed: ___ Yes ___ No

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, January 18, 2018**

**January 2018
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.**

January 7	“Shimmering Faith” Communion 2018 Star Selection
January 14	What’s Your Motivation? Achievement? Mission Emphasis
January 21	What’s Your Motivation? Relationships? Service of Healing and Wholeness Welcome New Members
January 28	Congregational Meeting