

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

November 30, 2016

Following the recent acrimonious campaigns and election, I thought these words from Presbyterian pastor, Eugene Peterson, were appropriate for us:

"Prayer is political action. Prayer is social energy. Prayer is public good. Far more of our nation's life is shaped by prayer than is formed by legislation. That we have not collapsed into anarchy is due more to prayer than to the police. Prayer is a sustained and intricate act of patriotism in the largest sense of that word- far more precise, loving, and preserving than any patriotism served up in slogans. That society continues to be livable and that hope continues to be resurgent are attributable to prayer far more than to business prosperity or a flourishing of the arts. The single most important action contributing to whatever health and strength there is in our land is prayer."

Earth and Altar. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 1.

During this time of transition, let us remember to pray for our nation!

Dave

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2016 Christmas Fair THIS SUNDAY December 4th!

Our 2016 Christmas Fair is just around the corner THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for a light supper, music, games for all ages, silent auction, craft tables, coffee, tea & cocoa sales, prizes, and the opportunity to give gifts that have potential to change (and even save) lives. **If you cannot join us on the evening of Dec. 4, gifts can also be purchased in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, December 4, 11, and 18.**

All items purchased in honor of someone on your Christmas list will be accompanied by a gift card.

Bidding End THIS SUNDAY!

Our Silent Auction for the Christmas Mission Fair has begun! Come check out the items this Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall. The bidding will end this Sunday at 7:00 pm at the Christmas Fair. Church members have donated some wonderful items/services including interior painting, a mountain cabin weekend get away, Native American Teepee art and a Greek dinner for 6, that you will want to consider for those on your gift list, or for yourself. There is something for everyone! See you Sunday!

Extra Crafts for the Christmas Fair

Do you have any crafts you would be willing to donate for sale at the Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 4th? If you make crafts to sell this time of year, perhaps you have some extras you would be willing to give. If you like to make crafts in your spare time, perhaps you could make some just for the Fair. All proceeds from items sold at the craft tables will go to the mission projects.

Contact Tom Kolmer at 717-634-0258 or at tomkolmer@gmail.com if you have any questions. Please bring crafts to Fellowship Hall **BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, OR THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT THE LATEST. THANKS!**

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, AND MUCH MORE FOR SALE AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR ON DEC. 4!

This year we will again be selling coffee, cocoa, and tea at the Christmas Fair. 12-oz. packages of 7 different kinds of coffee, 4 types of tea, and 12-oz. cans of organic hot cocoa & spicy hot cocoa mix will be available through the Presbyterian Coffee Project/Interfaith Coffee Program. Also for sale will be 5 kinds of chocolate bars, organic roasted almonds, and olive oil. These items are available through a program called Equal Exchange which provides fair trade opportunities through worker-based co-ops with small scale farmers.

Baked Goods Needed for the Christmas Fair !!

All types of baked goods are needed for the Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 4. These items will be used for the bake sale and dinner desserts.

The baked goods can be placed in the church kitchen by Sunday morning, December 4. Please mark 'BAKE SALE' on them. The Mission and Interpretation Team thanks you for your time and effort!

Upcoming Events:

"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:

December

We are collecting items for

Mission Bright Star

Stars were previously selected to purchase Christmas gifts for children whose parent or parents are inmates at the Adams County Correctional Facility.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

December

December 4	4:30 - 7:00	CHRISTMAS FAIR
December 11	5:30 - 7:00	CHRISTMAS PARTY & Silly Gifts
December 18	5:30 - 7:30	Christmas Caroling
December 25	NO SHIP	CHRISTMAS

MidSHIP Schedule

December

December 4	4:30 - 7:00	CHRISTMAS FAIR
December 7	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
December 11	5:30 - 7:00	CHRISTMAS PARTY & Silly Gifts
December 7	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
December 18	5:30 - 7:30	Christmas Caroling
December 25	NO MidSHIP	CHRISTMAS

Envelopes & Contributions

Please pick up your 2017 contribution envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. Also, our Church Treasurer reminds everyone to make 2016 gifts to the church by December 31 to receive credit for your donation in the 2016 calendar year.

Dec. 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Interfaith Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence

- WHAT:** All are welcome to an Adams County *Interfaith Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence*, in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, as well as the 120,000 American victims of gun violence since December 2012. The vigil is part of a nationwide tribute in partnership with the Newtown Foundation, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. More Info: Rev. Judy Young gettysburg4gunsense@gmail.com
- WHERE:** The Interfaith Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence will take place at the Chapel of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg.
- WHEN:** 7:00 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016



New Sunday School Electives in December

December 4, 11, 18 – Paul Wilson and Chooch Wells will be leading a discussion on “Why This Jubilee?” Music is such an important part of Advent and Christmas. Can you imagine Advent without “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”? How about Christmas without carols like “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Silent Night,” and “Joy to the World”? It pleases the Lord Jesus when we sing of his coming with carols we know by heart. It pleases him even more when we think about the words we are singing. In 24 reflections on well-known carols and Christmas songs, James Howell explores the birth of Jesus. He ponders the meaning of certain phrases from these songs and relates to them to our daily lives. Books are available for \$9 at the Christian Education table. Come and join us for this exciting and provocative look at our Christmas Carols at 9:30 in the MacAskill Room. All are welcome.

SHIP and Mid-Ship Christmas Parties & Caroling

The SHIP and Mid-Ship Christmas Dinner and silly gift exchanges will be held on Dec.11th from 5:30 to 7:00. Please bring a funny gift to exchange (something you already have or something you buy for less than \$5). All SHIP and Mid-Ship kids (and families) are invited to go caroling Dec.18th with other church members. Please note the extended time to youth group on Dec. 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Poinsettias

Help us decorate the sanctuary at Christmas by ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. The flowers will be used in the sanctuary beginning December 18th. You may pick up your plant(s) following evening worship on the 24th. **The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26th . Those not picked up by noon on the 27th will be delivered to shut-ins.** The 5-6 bloom 6 ½" pot will cost \$9.50.

Please fill in the following form & send it with your check made payable to Gettysburg Presbyterian Church to:
 Mary Lou Seamens
 169 Hunters Trail
 Gettysburg, PA. 17325

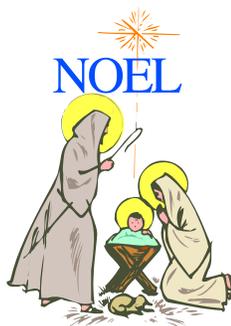
Orders MUST be in by Sunday, December 4th.
We cannot accept orders after that date—No extensions.

Christmas Poinsettias 2016

Given by: _____
 Phone #: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 In Honor of: _____
 # of plants you will pick up _____
 # of plants to be delivered to shut-ins _____



Christmas Pageant on December 11th



Our Christmas pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Two angels will narrate the play, as teens and children together act out the story of the birth of Jesus. The Primary Choir will sing two songs, and the Chapel Choir will sing carols throughout. The program ends with the traditional nativity scene. The evening will also include carol singing by the congregation and potluck dessert. So come join us on December 11, bring your favorite snack/dessert to share, and take a break from the holiday rush.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United welcomes all local church women to a 90-minute (\$3) lunch meeting at **11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7**, at the **Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Road**. Following lunch, please join us for the Christmas program, "Stories Behind Famous Hymns & Carols," presented by Whitney Myers. A special welcome to all newcomers to join the ecumenical fellowship. No reservations are needed. For more information, contact Cheryl Potter at 337-2938.



Stephen Ministry

THINK STEPHEN MINISTRY

You are the front lines of caring ministry in our congregation. Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. If you see people who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them about this special ministry in our congregation where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. Call Lou at the church office 334-1235.

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 Nov. 13 - Dec. 11 is Bonnie Wright at 398-2411. Dec. 11 - January 8 is Marion Lambert 357-2195.



Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dave & Krista Delacruz on the recent death of Dave's mother.

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle
Monday, December 19, NOON
 Paideia House, 1st floor
 Lunch



Mary Martha Circle
Monday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.
 Paideia House, 1st floor

Esther Circle
Thursday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.
 Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
 Lesson 4 - Gospel of John (John 1;9;10)
 Leader: Charlotte Winsheimer



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, Dec. 18

Join your church family members of all ages for an evening of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for a light meal, leave and return to the church by 7:30 p.m. for hot chocolate.

A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall or in the church office.

Please join us for this evening of fun, fellowship, and... caroling!

For more information, please contact Rev, Lou Nyiri at 334-1235, ext. 4 or gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

MEN'S INTERFAITH LUNCHEON will meet Dec. 7 & 14

All men are invited on Wednesday, Dec. 7th & 14th at 12:00 noon for light lunch (\$3.00) and camaraderie in Fellowship Hall, followed by humor and worship in the sanctuary. This is an interfaith gathering, and is open to all men who would enjoy the time together, and appreciate a message from a local minister.

White Christmas Dreams Tinted Blue

The expectation that holidays are joyful times with families gathered around the Christmas tree is embedded in our culture and tradition. However, the reality for many people is that many variables can impinge on what might otherwise be a joyous season. Family strife, loss and grief, personal finances, and economic concerns can cause some to feel less than joyful and out-of-step during the holidays. If you find yourself resonating with any of this, then please call the church office to speak with a pastor about our care-giving ministry (334-1235). Please check out the display of literature in Fellowship Hall for more information and helpful aids. You might also consider coming to the "Light in the Midst of Darkness" worship service on December 18th (see below for details of this service).

Light in the Midst of Darkness: A Worship Service for Those Who Find Celebrating Difficult

Sunday, December 18, 2016

4:00PM Sanctuary



Christmas and the holidays can be a bittersweet time of year for those who find themselves remembering persons and events that have been a part of their lives in the past, which are now changed or gone. As we enter into the season of the year with longer nights, we will gather to offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering and sharing our hurting places with God. Join us for this candle-lit time of music, scripture, stories, silent reflection and prayer.

YOUNG AT HEART

December 8, 2016

Our December meeting will be a covered dish luncheon starting at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall followed by a time of singing Christmas carols with Becky Wareham. Please bring a covered dish to share and join us for a time of fellowship and song. If there are any questions, please call Cheryl Betts in the church office 334-1235, ext. 5 or at gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED – Christmas Weekend

We need volunteers for the church nursery on Christmas Eve. If you can help at the 4:00 (1 more needed), 5:30, 7:00 or 8:30 p.m. and Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. service please contact Cheryl in the church office at 334-1235, ext. 5 or gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org.

BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS!!

Held during the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



For children ages 2—Grade 2, a special “Birthday Party for Jesus” will be held during the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The party will include songs, the Christmas story, crafts, cupcakes for Jesus, and a special gift bag for each child.

Children will begin the service with their families in the sanctuary and exit shortly thereafter. All children ages 2—Grade 2 are welcome to attend this meaningful celebration.

In case of inclement weather...

In case of inclement weather, here’s what you can do to find out about any change in plans at the church:

- We will try to notify everyone who has signed up for our congregational notification system by email.
- You can call the church office (334-1235, ext. 2) and listen for updated information.
- You can check the church website and Facebook page for updates.
- You can check the following radio and TV stations. In some cases our information will only show up on the station website.

WGAL TV (News 8)- WGAL.com

ABC27 TV- abc27.com

WGTY (107.7) and WGET (1320) radio- wgtv.com and wget.com



Our heartfelt thanks
to Montford &
Betsy Illick
for the beautiful
Christmas Tree in
the Sanctuary.
We are all
enjoying it!



Christmas Eve Ushers Needed!

If you could help welcome worship-
pers by ushering Christmas Eve,
please contact Rev. Nyiri in the church
office, 334-1235, ext. 4 or
gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Service times: 4:00 - Traditional
5:30 - Contemporary
7:00 - Family
8:30 - Traditional

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday School Changes:

Sunday, December 4th

Combined children's Sunday School
class (Preschool – 5th Grade) will
meet in the Sewing room following
dismissal from worship due
to Christmas Mission Fair games
are set up in classrooms.

Sunday, December 25th

one service at 10 a.m.
NO Sunday School.

Sunday, January 1st

one service at 10 a.m.
NO Sunday School.



Advent Schedule

December 4- Second Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
4:30 p.m. Annual Christmas
Mission Fair

December 11-Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
7:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant
And Potluck Dessert

December 18 -Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
4:00 p.m. Light in the Midst of
Darkness: A Worship Service
for Those Who Find
Celebrating Difficult
5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling -
All Ages Welcome!!

December 24- Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship and
Birthday Party for Jesus
(ages 2-Grade 2)
5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship
7:00 p.m. Family Worship
8:30 p.m. Traditional Worship

Candle-lighting and Carol singing at all services.
Nursery care provided at each service.

December 25- Christmas Service

10:00 a.m. Worship
"The Birth that Changes Our Lives"

*Come and Celebrate the Season
with Joy and Hope!*



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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, December 8, 2016

December 2016
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

December 4	Advent Journeys - The Hebrew People Communion Second Sunday in Advent
December 11	Advent Journeys - Mary Journeys to Elizabeth Third Sunday in Advent
December 18	Advent Journeys - The Journey from Heaven to Earth Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24	4:00 p.m. Journey to Bethlehem & "Birthday Party for Jesus" 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship - Journey to Bethlehem 7:00 p.m. Family Worship - "Stolen Jesus" 8:30 p.m. Traditional Worship - Journey to Bethlehem