

GRAPEVINE

December 14, 2020

"The Pastor's Page"

Disappointing Christmas

I'm preparing myself for a disappointing Christmas. There, I've said it. It appears that neither of our kids will be home. (They weren't home for Thanksgiving, either.) I don't think any other family will be joining us either. So, probably just Bonnie and me. At church, I'll miss the big crowds and strong singing, and the opportunity to share the Good News with folks who haven't been in church since last year! This Christmas doesn't look good. Merry Disappointing, Less-than-optimum, Crappola Christmas. Maybe you feel the same way.

But I guess that the essence of Christmas- remembering when God took on human form and entered our world as a baby- can still happen! Maybe we can even put a little more focus on that this year! After all, the first Christmas lacked extended family, roast beast, and gaudy decorations, too. And, death was always nearby in that ancient time of poverty, plague, and Herod.

So, I invite you to use this in-some-ways disappointing Christmas to reflect on the hope and joy that first Christmas brought into our world, and still brings us today.

Pastor Dave

The Hopes and Fears of All the Years
Are met in Thee tonight.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
And
Happy New Year 2021



From the
Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Staff

Dave Lou Cheryl Penny Libby Dennis
George David Jamie Deb Carrie Phyllis Pam

Happy Birthday to...

January 1

Barb Fair
Ross Kircher
Kate Matthews
Kay McClain
Johnna Sanders

January 2

Michael Gazmen
Madison Meyer
Tammy Smarsh
Ann Williams

January 3

Olivia Hall

January 4

Trenton Fake
Christian Swartzbaugh
Ethan Walker

January 6

Don Scofield

January 7

Matthew Landauer
Jane Neely
Caleb Unger
Marilyn Weary

January 8

James Bergen
Barbara Finrock

January 9

Anthony Ott

January 10

Vicki Fuller
Paul Landauer
Pamela Musselman

January 12

Lois Gregor

January 13

Joshua Poorman

January 15

Katrina Fuller
Joan Kinsey
Pam Rowland
Caroline Wintrose

January 16

Alexander Cowden
Olivia Cowden
Cheryl Kulkusky
Lee Ann Larson
Callie Sheppard
Audrey Trax

January 17

Noah Bahm
Ken Brown
Alexandra Chandon
Allen Duncan
Mike Hosterman

January 18

Michael King
Patricia Lewis
William Reaver

January 19

Brian Fitzgerald
Kelcee Keller
Paul Wilson

January 20

Doris Corbin
Jacob Durboraw
John Gregor
Sharon Martin
Mary Miner
Deb Slothour

January 21

Debra Meckley

January 22

Leah Bernier
Evelyn Flinger
Madison Franek

January 23

Deb Kammerer
Tom Kolmer
Sandra Reed

January 24

Gina Xenos

January 25

Christopher Kiefer
Mary Weigle

January 26

Dianne Albin
Margaret Sarnoff

January 27

Dave Boyer
Callie Fennimore
Kay Knox
Barb Sanders

January 28

Jordan Thompson

January 29

Jacob Bridel
Kyle Clark
Ava Fair
Donald Stabler
Bev Weber

January 30

Chad Decker
Jan Gazmen

January 31

Dave Delacruz
Josh Fair
Jordan Soliday
Tracey Stone
Becky Wareham



Mission Bright Star Thank You

Sincere thanks go out to the congregation for participating in this year's Mission Bright Star ministry. Through your extraordinary generosity, 90 children received a gift card for Christmas on behalf of their mother or father who is incarcerated in the Adams County Adult Correctional Facility. The gift cards were mailed to the 45 caregiver families the first week of December. For 28 years GPC has served as a bridge to connect families and to share the message of Jesus' love during the Christmas season. Once again you made Christmas "brighter" for many children.



Pam & Bruce Rowland

Dear Church Members

Although I moved to Midlothian VA three years ago, I still think of my Gettysburg church family so many times. I am very happy I have made the move to be closer to Todd and family but part of my roots will always remain in Gettysburg.

I want to thank everyone for your cares and concerns and wish you all a blessed and healthy Christmas.

Jean Sumser

CONDOLENCES:

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Cindy Burnsteel on the recent death of her brother
Dawn Bohner on the recent death of her brother-in-law.

Compassion Stewardship 2021

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge for the 2021 Compassion Campaign.

If you have not, there is still time. Please place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday morning or turn it into the church office, go to our website and pledge electronically or contact the church office to enroll in ACH.



THANK YOU!

2020 has been a year that none of us will ever forget but for some of us it has been especially challenging. Maureen and I want to take this opportunity to say a great big “Thank You” to Pastor Dave, Pastor Lou, Penny Messinger and all of the members of this congregation who provided meals, sent cards, called and emailed, sent flowers or plants, and provided transportation for either Maureen or me or both of us while I have been dealing with my 6 bypass open heart surgery. I also need to acknowledge those people who offered their help, because we could not have made it through without you!

I know that I am a lucky man because I did not actually have a heart attack leading up to the surgery, but I still feel a little “guilty” because I really did not have any problems right up to the moment I went into the operating room. I had some shortness of breath at work that led me to the stress test and when I failed that and had to have the catherization, I never imagined that I would have to face major heart surgery!

I began my cardiac rehabilitation on 12/1 which will continue for many weeks into the new year, but I want to let all of you know that I feel good and am convinced that the prayers and concerns of all the faithful here at GPC got me through this difficult time. I also want to publicly acknowledge the very capable surgeon and all of the members of the cardio-thoracic surgery team at York Hospital as well as the nurses and therapists on the second floor of the hospital who got me out of the hospital within one week of my procedure.

I want to say a special “Thank You” to Penny, who took on quite a few of my treasurer duties while I was in the hospital and right after I came home. She had my back through this ordeal and for that I am very grateful.

Maureen and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2021!

George Marguglio

Exploring Membership Class (via Zoom!)

We will host an Exploring Membership Class
via Zoom on Sunday afternoon,
Jan. 17. More details coming soon.
Let the church office know if you are
interested in participating.

Watch the Children's Christmas Pageant!

"A Very Mixed-up Christmas Pageant," starring Scott and Barb Sanders Hartwig and our children, can be seen on our YouTube channel under "Uploads." Just follow the streaming link on the website! Thanks to Bonnie Wright for envisioning and directing the pageant, and to Mark Wherley for splicing it all together!

2021 Chancel Flowers



The new calendar is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to sign up for the Chancel flowers in 2021.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

December

December 20	5:00 - 6:00	Zoom Youth Group "Online Christmas Party" (with virtual gift exchange)
December 27	NO SHIP	Christmas Break

MIDSHIP SCHEDULE

December

December 20	5:00 - 6:00	Christmas Celebration
December 27	NO Mid-SHIP	Christmas Break

Envelopes & Contributions

Please pick up your 2021 contribution envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. This will save the church time and money since those not picked up are mailed out individually.

Also, our Church Treasurer reminds everyone to make 2020 gifts to the church by December 31 to receive credit for your donation in the 2020 calendar year.

Mission Prayer List

On Sunday mornings we will be praying for the following people/groups that we support:

- 12/20 Carpenter's Gift**
A GPC ministry building primarily handicapped ramps for local people.
- 12/27 S. Carolina Mission Trip**
Works with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity to build homes for working poor families each Spring.
- 1/3/21 Bryan & Emily Gerlach**
Bryan & Emily are now home after serving with local churches in Thailand.

Please consider including them in your own prayers!

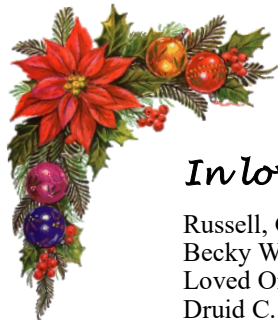
Many of our staff will be
on vacation after Christmas.

**The Church office will be
CLOSED**

Dec. 25 - January 4

For pastoral care needs please
contact Pastor Dave

717-398-2411



Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God

In loving memory of...

Russell, Gary & Danny Maitland
 Becky Wells
 Loved Ones
 Druid C. & Betty J. Deitch and Rodney Warner
 Roger Albin
 M. Lucille Myers
 Katheryn Gitt Schultz
 Gust Jahnke
 Stanley Hull
 Louise Hull
 Don Merwede
 Tim Bemis
 Our Mothers, Bette Petrie & Rosemary Givler
 Our Parents
 Our Loved Ones
 Mom, Dad, Jill, Gordon, Barbara & Jack
 Carol Rutter
 Frank & June Conklin
 Ed, Waunettia, & Larry Allen
 Carl & Louella Baumgardner
 Jack & Julia Raggets
 Dean Bohner & Denise Knaack
 My Parents, Sister, & Brother
 Our Mothers & Grandmothers
 Elizabeth (Betsy) Clowes
 My Parents, John & Wilda Betts
 Charles & Margaret Edwards
 Arthur & Mildred Musselman
 Rev. Dr. Robert L. Veon
 Ethel & Lou Nyiri
 My Sister, Cindy Thigpen
 Laura Kammerer
 Charles & Gloria Marks
 Arthur & Dolores Altenau
 Our Parents
 Keith Burnsteel, Son, Brother & Uncle
 Mary Lou Tidwell
 Bessie Reynolds
 Robert E. Curtis & Ann B. Bovbjerg
 Ruth, Tori and Emma

In honor of..

Barbara J. Finfrock
 Educators & Students who are
 working through the pandemic
 Our Children & Grandchildren
 To the Glory of God
 Our Family
 Cheryl Betts
 Esther Cirele
 Our Grandchildren, Brian, Ethan & Theo
 Our Parents
 Penny Messinger
 Judy Veon
 The "Write from the Heart" friends with Thanks
 Ruth
 Gloria North
 The GPC Staff

Given by...

Helen Maitland
 Wells Family
 Illick Family
 Drusilla J. Warner
 Dianne Albin & Family
 Marian & Rad Schultz
 Marian & Rad Schultz
 Gail & Peter Hull
 Gail & Peter Hull
 Gail & Peter Hull
 Carol Merwede
 Jill Bemis
 George & Conni Petrie
 Pam & Dick Wisor
 John & Lois Gregor
 Mary Lou Seamens
 Elly & Jerry Cleaver
 David & Pat Conklin
 David & Pat Conklin
 Jim & Ellen Raggets
 Jim & Ellen Raggets
 Dawn Bohner & Family
 Barbara Finfrock
 Clarks, Maues, & Kings
 Roger Clowes & Family
 Cheryl L. Betts
 Lois Edwards
 Larry Musselman
 Lou, Candace & Alex Nyiri
 Lou, Candace & Alex Nyiri
 Dale Molina
 Rich & Deb Kammerer
 Charles & Lisamarie Marks
 Charles & Lisamarie Marks
 Jane & Peter North
 His Loving Family
 Ed & Susan Reynolds
 Ed & Susan Reynolds
 Margaret B. Curtis
 Patrick Sullivan

Given by...

Evelyn L. Booth
 John & Lois Gregor

 Elly & Jerry Cleaver
 Leslie & Lydia Casteel
 Leslie & Lydia Casteel
 Barbara Finfrock
 Barbara Finfrock
 Jeff & Susan Anderson
 Margo & Hank Har
 Lucy Breighner
 Lou, Candace & Alex Nyiri
 Mary Lou Seamens
 Patrick Sullivan
 Jane & Peter North
 Dave & Bonnie Wright



2 Christmas Eve Worship Options!

3:00 p.m. Drive-in service (45 min.) at the Harley Davidson Pavilion!

“Journey to the Manger: Illuminating Darkness” we will encounter the Christmas Story through The Bible, singing familiar songs, brief message, and conclude by illuminating the darkness with our headlights. Parking Lot opens 2:15 p.m.

(NOTE: Use V-Twin Drive entrance to back pavilion NOT Cavalry Field Rd. entrance.)

Safety protocols require all those in attendance to stay in their vehicles.

5:00 p.m. Live-stream service from the sanctuary.

Familiar carols, readings, candles, and a brief message. Have some candles ready at home to light as we sing “Silent Night!” You can watch the service anytime Christmas Eve or after.

We would love to have you represented in the live stream service!

Please email a photo of your family (maybe in front of your tree?) to Pastor Lou, and we’ll show it during the service.

gpcpastorlou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org or to the Facebook page.

**If you ordered items from the
Christmas Mission Fair
You can pick them up in the church office
Monday - Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. Update

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. began hosting homeless guests on December 1 under the direction of Rosemary Laureano, new program director. Housing will take place in a local Gettysburg motel. Local church hosts and overnight volunteers will not be utilized this year due to COVID concerns. However, volunteers will provide breakfasts for the guests before they start their day. Presbyterian Women (PW) at GPC will provide breakfasts during the week of January 3-9, 2021.

This has been an unusual and difficult year for everyone. The Coronavirus has affected our families, our workplace, our church, our social groups, etc. We have been under a lot of stress since March. Things have not returned to "Normal". This is our *new* normal for now. Each of us are affected in different ways. Some have continued to work throughout this Pandemic, which has added to the stressors. It has been challenging to find information. The Center for Disease Control website is where I have searched through the many articles posted trying to find the most recent information.



The Vaccine is coming. The safety of the COVID 19 vaccine is a *top* priority. Currently, there are many vaccines being developed and tested. Supply, distribution, and recommendations will be at the forefront. I encourage you to check out the CDC website for factual information. I have also posted (bulletin board in Fellowship Hall) the most recent vaccine information from the CDC.

Pray for the researchers and those making decisions for approval, distribution, etc.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, I encourage you to take some time to "pause." Gather around your Christmas tree, listen to your favorite songs, reflect on the Bible passages that give us Hope, Joy, and Peace, be good to yourself, treat yourself to hot chocolate, reach out to others via phone to offer your love and support, send a card or note to those with whom you haven't re-connected in some time, drive around to see the many Christmas displays and lights in your community.. the list goes on and on. Reflect on what really matters.

I challenge you to respond to the following questions:

What do I want to be sure to take with me into my life after the pandemic/all of this is over?

What part of my life feels un-lived or unloved? What could I do to feed that?

What am I doing to foster positive emotions in my life (Not just positive thoughts)?

Does my significant other(s) feel significant?

Am I doing the work of Jesus, serving others with Love?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pam Phillips RN FCN



CHILDREN'S STORYTime

Christian Education Committee is looking for individuals who would like to come into the church to pre-record or record yourself reading a story for children. If you don't have a favorite book, you might want to stop in our Phyllis Dowd Children's Library and select a book to read. We thought this would be a great way to connect with our children during the slow and wintry months of January and February. If you are interested in doing this, contact Cheryl in the church office and we will work out a schedule with Mark Wherley to come in and record the story being read or you can email one to Cheryl that you have recorded yourself. Let's make these wintry months something special for our children.

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

208 Baltimore Street

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Fax: (717) 334-0666

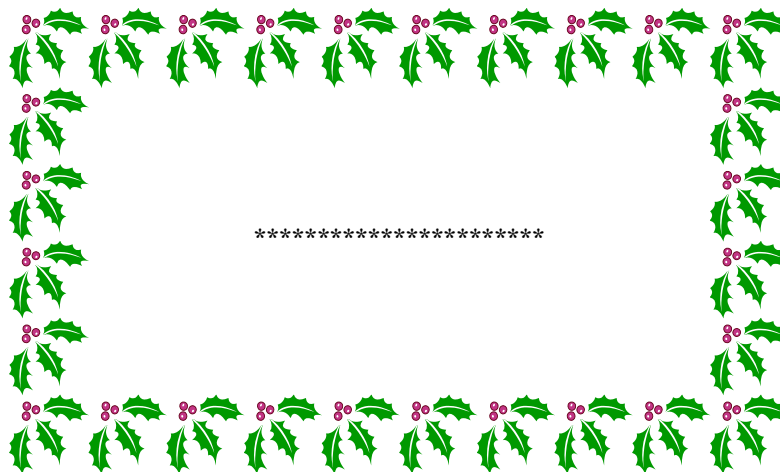
www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org

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 31, 2020

Office Operations

The state guidelines still encourage people to work from home where possible.

However, someone is usually in the office from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday

You can continue to call the office number (717-334-1235) if you need anything, or need to get into the building during the day.

**December 2020 / January 2021
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

10:00 a.m. Live-Stream Worship Service

- December 20** *When God Interrupts: Joseph and Mary*
Fourth Sunday in Advent
- December 24** Christmas Eve
3:00 p.m. Drive-In Worship Service at
Harley Davidson pavilion
5:00 p.m. Live-stream Worship Service
- December 27** Daryl Wright Preaching

To view live stream, go to: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
Click "New Streaming Link" on the top right hand corner