

GRAPEVINE

November 30, 2021

"The Pastor's Page"

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


**Sunday, December 19, 2021
3:00 p.m. / Sanctuary & Livestream**

Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year. While the world celebrates, for many it is a time to remember persons and events that have been a part of their lives, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a service like this, then join us in-person (masks required) or via the livestream (accessed through our website home page) on Sunday, December 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Use the tear off below as a personal reminder or to give it to someone you know who could benefit from this candle-lit time of music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, and prayer.

God's Peace,



Inside

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- Sunday School Class for Advent
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- Babysitting Training Class
- Afghanistan Resettlement Project

Light in the Midst of Darkness

A worship service for those who find celebrating difficult...

Date: Sunday, December 19, 2021
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: In Person (masks required) or Livestream
Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Street

(Parking lot located off East High Street)
(Livestream Link on website: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org)

Gather with us for this quiet, meditative service as we remember and share our hurting places with God.

Join us for this candle-lit time of music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, and prayer...



Happy Birthday to...

December 1

Andrew Larson
Brian Mora

December 2

Rebecca Kiefer
Drew May
Alexander Shpak
Edward Thompson

December 4

Sharon Baker

December 5

Hailey Brownley
Merle Weant

December 6

Maria Cushing-Daniels
Hayden Garverick
Lucas Witherow-Doyle

December 7

Rebecca Beegle
Allen Knouse

December 8

McKenna Kulkusky
John Musselman

Jill Sellers

Lee Weber

December 9

John Graziano
Holly Scarbrough

Shawn Wagner

Mary Wood

December 10

Katharine Hawkins

December 11

Megan Angstadt

Scott Russo

Newton Stewart

December 12

Mary Lynn Weaver

December 13

Shirley Fennimore
Sierra Hare

December 14

Tammy Schwartz
John Tschop

December 15

June Powers
Mike Strausner

December 16

Wendy Brubaker
Mandi Holler

Janet Lightner

Mike Lochary

Bonita Soliday

December 17

Ruth Ann Fatzinger

Marion Lambert

December 18

Richard Lightner
George Petrie

Christian Priel

December 19

Morgan Dennison
Kurtis Harrison
Sedona Wilson

December 20

Sonja Brown
Debbie Manning

Laura Pennings

December 21

Bruce Bridel
Mary K. Johnson

Chase King

Harry Winsheimer

December 22

Charlie Maynard

December 23

Sue Hain
Jacob Holler

Jane North

December 24

Bryan Beegle
Lucy Breighner

Jeffery Cook

Emily Druckman

Jan Knouse

Robert Remaley

December 25

JESUS
Kenneth Elledge

December 26

Bronte Fennimore
Mason Little

December 27

Julia Burke
Laura Farnham

Mandy Weikert

December 29

Donna Harrison

Lynn Stabler

Scott Zanger

December 30

Sandra Breighner
Carolyn Hankey

Anne Warcup

December 31

Andy Armstrong
Lynne Orner

NURSERY

WELCOME

Sheri Zajac as our new Nursery caregiver. Sheri will be starting in the Nursery on December 5th. Welcome to GPC, Sheri.

THANK YOU

to Gabby Ruth for her dedication, love and joyous spirit as she leaves us from our Nursery. We will miss her. We wish her well on planning her upcoming marriage in the fall. The children loved you and will miss you.

NEW NURSERY HOURS

Beginning January 1st Nursery will be staffed for the 8:15 and 9:30 services. If you are attending 11:00 and need to take your child out, the Nursery will be open but you will need to stay with the child. There is a TV in the Nursery that will broadcast the service so that you can watch it while being with your child. This will be revised as needs change.

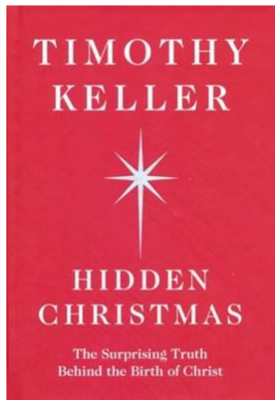
The Men's Interfaith Lunch has been cancelled for December due to continued high infection rates for COVID in Adams County.

We hope to begin meeting again in January.



GPC will be hosting Gettysburg CARES Homeless Shelter Dec. 20 - Jan. 9. CARES supplies the overnight people who stay with the CARES guests, but we need to supply a host each evening from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. The host welcomes the CARES people to our church and can also give a short devotion for the ones who are interested. I already have hosts for Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. All hosts and overnight people and CARES guests have to be vaccinated. If any of you are willing to be a host for one or more nights, please email Amy Deitch at ahdeitch@hotmail.com Thank you!

New Adult Elective Sunday School Class for Advent



In *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author, Tim Keller guides readers through an illuminating journey into the surprising background of the Nativity story, a story that is a celebration of the advent of Jesus Christ, who came to save mankind and restore our humanity to how it was meant to be. This profoundly moving and intellectually provocative book unpacks the message of hope, redemption, and salvation hidden in the biblical account of Jesus' birth so that readers may experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a meaningful and deeper way. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. November 28th through December 19th to explore this journey in the MacAskill Room. Merida Hurkett will facilitate the class.

ADVENT WREATH



Once again this year we will provide materials to make your own Advent Wreath beginning Sunday, November 28th. Materials will be in large Rubbermaid tubs outside the electric door to Fellowship Hall. Please take a bag of items and cut yourself greens from the containers of greens. Celebrate Advent by lighting your Advent Wreath each week during advent.

Stephen Ministry

Support: To hold in position so as to keep from falling, sinking, or slipping

Support is something we all need. God gives us support through our Christian brothers and sisters. Let us all be sensitive to one another's needs and take the time to support each other through prayers, phone calls, friendly chats after church, and even visits. Also, remember that we have Stephen Ministers who are willing to give their support. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Lou Nyiri at 717-334-1235, ext. 4.



“When I said, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your love, O LORD, supported me” *(Psalm 94:18)*

Don't Miss Out on Christmas Mission Fair 2021!

This Sunday, December 5th is your last chance to grab some truly unique gifts for those on your Christmas List.

1. Between church services stop by the tables in Fellowship Hall to stock up on Coffee (K-cup, ground, whole bean), Tea, Chocolates, Olive Oil, and Nuts from Equal Exchange and the Presbyterian Coffee Project. These purchases support small farmers in developing lands.
2. Direct Mission Support Gift Letters are available to send as gifts that really make a difference. Choose from Yucatan Mexico Mission, SC Habitat for Humanity Mission, High School Work Camp, Family-Focused Mission, Heifer International, and Gettysburg Soup Kitchen...or go big and support them all! Every donation is needed and appreciated!
3. Go to www.biddingowl.com/gpc on your computer or smartphone and place a bid on some of the 27 items available! Some of these are on display in Fellowship Hall. ALL BIDDING ENDS AT 6pm ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th! Winners will be notified and will be able to pick up their items at the church office next week.

Thank you, one and all, for your support and enthusiasm! Together we can spread the Good News of Jesus through mission involvement locally and around the world!



This year we are again providing devotional materials to help you prepare for Advent. There are devotionals on the CE table for children and for families to use. Also you will find the advent devotional in which some of you submitted your thoughts on advent. Please help yourselves to one copy per family of these devotions. Let these devotions lead you through your preparation for the birth of Christ.

MISSION PRAYER LIST

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

- 12/5 Adams County Mission**
Adams County Mission works with men struggling with substance abuse, runs a thrift store, and a recycling ministry.
- 12/12 Fruitbelt Farmworkers Ministry**
Rev. Rod Runyan coordinates this ministry at seasonal workcamps throughout the region.
- 12/19 Sean and Bethany Walker**
After serving 10 years in Central Asia, Sean & Bethany are now working from Houston, supporting the ministry of Antioch Partners, a mission group committed to reaching unreached people around the world

Please consider including them in your own prayers!



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has disbanded for a time due to a perceived lack of interest. I have been encouraged to re-establish this ministry, and I would like to remind those who knit, crochet, or weave that this group can re-surface at any time. Please let me know of your interest, and we will regroup after Christmas. Needles and yarn are available. Thank you.

Beth Fitzpatrick, 717-334-4960,
bethieandbill@comcast.net

“Calendar of Giving”

For the month of:

December

Mission Bright Star

It's once again time for our church's annual Mission Bright Star ministry. This is a program in which members and friends of our congregation purchase Christmas gifts for children whose father or mother is a resident in the Adams County Correctional Facility during the Christmas season. Because Covid numbers have still remained high, we have once again made modifications to the program in order to follow CDC guidelines and minimize personal contact. Instead of purchasing two gifts for each child, this year, we will be sending the children's caregivers a \$25.00 **Walmart gift card** for each child.

If you would like to participate:

1. You may purchase \$25.00 **Walmart** gift card(s).
2. You may write a check to GPC with Mission Bright Star in the memo line.
3. You may give cash with a note referencing Mission Bright Star.
4. You may give money/ purchase cards for as many children as you would like.

78 children are signed up to receive gifts this year.

You may drop your gift off at the church office **any time between now and Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.**

Your willingness to share the love and compassion of Jesus with a Mission Bright Star family is greatly appreciated. Thank You!

If you have any questions please call or email Pam and Bruce Rowland. 717-642-8802
pbrowland@embarqmail.com

Mid-SHIP & SHIP

Both the High School FellowSHIP and Mid-SHIP groups will meet each Sunday night at the church, unless otherwise indicated, from 5-6:00 p.m.

We will follow the current GPC Covid protocols.

December 5 5:00-6:00 p.m. Fellowship & Games @GPC

December 12 5:00-6:00 p.m. Fellowship & Games @GPC

December 19 5:00-6:00 p.m. Christmas Celebration @GPC

December 26 & January 2 NO SHIP OR MidSHIP



Advent Schedule

December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Adult Choir
Christmas Cantata
9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
3:00 p.m. Light in the Midst of
Darkness: A Worship Service
for Those Who Find
Celebrating Difficult

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship and
Birthday Party for Jesus
(ages 3 - Grade 3)
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.

Come and Celebrate
the Season with
Joy and Hope!

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. 15—Dec. 12th is Jeff cook at 717-253-3388.

The following list was compiled by the High School Youth Group the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Enjoy...

101 things for which to be thankful ...



- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. thanksgiving | 23. friends | 45. sun | 67. parents | 89. traditions |
| 2. family | 24. video games | 46. sprite cranberry | 68. grandparents | 90. flowers |
| 3. breathing | 25. good grades | 47. vaccines | 69. community | 91. plants |
| 4. food | 26. erasers | 48. pen | 70. books | 92. heat |
| 5. water | 27. dancing | 49. paper | 71. safety | 93. Jesus' resurrection |
| 6. work | 28. star wars | 50. cheezits | 72. people in our hearts | 94. internet |
| 7. shelter | 29. animals | 51. oxygen | 73. life | 95. Harry Potter |
| 8. church | 30. glasses | 52. dogs | 74. growth | 96. five senses |
| 9. youth group kids | 31. pencil | 53. cats | 75. sports | 97. dreams |
| 10. Lou's PowerPoint skills ☺ | 32. music | 54. brain | 76. relationships | 98. sushi |
| 11. Bible | 33. phone | 55. movies | 77. laughter | 99. pandas |
| 12. dentists | 34. bed | 56. camping | 78. smiles | 100. shoes |
| 13. Jesus dying | 35. heating and cooling | 57. camping supplies | 79. soup kitchens | 101. theater |
| 14. nature | 36. nice house | 58. healthy food options | 80. snowflakes | |
| 15. money | 37. mom | 59. love | 81. Holy Trinity | |
| 16. clothing | 38. dad | 60. warmth of house | 82. church community | |
| 17. college | 39. golf | 61. Christmas gifts | 83. young kids | |
| 18. cars | 40. sleep | 62. opportunity to learn | 84. holiday spirit | |
| 19. entertainment | 41. doctors | 63. teachers | 85. roads | |
| 20. Sunday School | 42. pizza | 64. church staff | 86. elders | |
| 21. washing machines | 43. good days and nights | 65. first responders | 87. fire | |
| 22. time | 44. moon | 66. siblings | 88. clean water | |

*"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."
- Psalm 9:1*

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 December 19th. You may pick up your plant(s) following evening worship on the 24th, or the 26th after worship services, or Monday the 27th 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. **Those not picked up by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 28th will be delivered to shut-ins.** The 5-6 bloom 6 1/2" pot will cost \$10.00.

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 5th.
We cannot accept orders after that date—No extensions.

Christmas Poinsettias 2021

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



Thank Offering ²⁰²¹

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women is collected near Thanksgiving when we are thinking of everything we are thankful for in our own lives. This year the Gettysburg Presbyterian Women are thankful we have been able to help CARES, the fire Victims, and other local charities in need, but donations given to the PW of the PC (USA) can go all over the country as well as the world to help those in need, through the Thank Offering Donation.

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," women responded, and the Thank Offering was born. Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Over the last 33 years, Creative Ministries Offering Committee of the PW of the PC (USA) has granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering.

Please make your offering by using the Blue "Thank Offering" envelopes located in the pews or on the Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall or checks may be sent directly to the church, made out to Gettysburg Presbyterian Women, indicating the Thank Offering. You can donate (easily) online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank and indicate Gettysburg Presbyterian Church in the comments.



WHAT ARE MY...
Spiritual Gifts?

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 after the new year, possibly early spring. You must attend all 8 weeks. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Course fee- \$17. Contact: Jen Clark at jennifermaueclark@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Ushers Needed:

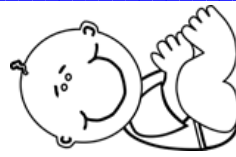
We will need a minimum of three (3) ushers for each of our Christmas Eve Services. If you are willing to assist with this ministry of welcome and hospitality, then please contact the staff person noted next to each service.

Contact Rev. Nyiri if you can usher at any of the following services:

- 4:00 p.m. Birthday Party for Jesus
- 7:00 p.m. Family Worship Service
(with Christmas Story)
- 8:30 p.m. Traditional Worship

Contact Libby Crow, Director of Contemporary Worship if you can usher at the

- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship.



Babysitter Training

December 29, Wednesday 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross has created a course for Babysitters which includes sessions on leadership, age characteristics, problem solving, safety, communication and first aid. The class will be led by Becky Stabler in the Sewing Room. For registration or questions, please call Becky at 717-688-5183. The course is designed for 11 to 15 year-olds who want to babysit.

\$60 GPC members; \$65 non-members

Session updates:

At the congregational meeting on Nov. 21, the following people were elected as church officers:

Session

Mary Flinner
Tom Kolmer
Pete North
Lloyd Schaeffer
Hank Har (2nd term)

Deacons

Eleanor Bilz
Ross Brownley
Linda MacAskill
Sarah Kirk (2-year term)
Jane Gwyn (2nd term)

Nominating Committee

Roger Clowes
Dave Boyer

At its meeting on Nov. 14, the Session and Pastor Dave agreed that Dave will retire at the end of Feb.

The Session was pleased to receive the final installment from the Ken Hoy bequest. The total received was \$119,609.89. The money has been combined with other bequests and the interest can be used to help with the annual budget and the principle and interest can be used for other special projects. If you would like to consider making a bequest to GPC, please contact our treasurer, George Marguglio at 717-873-1351

Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement Project – Inventory of Personal Interest and Resources

As noted earlier, churches and interested groups in Adams County are beginning to discuss the possibility of sponsoring 2-3 refugee families in our area. Afghan citizens were instrumental in assisting the US armed forces during the 20-year war in Afghanistan. Many who aided the U.S. mission are arriving in the U.S for resettlement. Gettysburg churches have been deeply committed to welcoming the stranger and loving our neighbors in the past. These churches and interested groups are exploring the call to welcome Afghan refugees fleeing violence and persecution in their home country and to advocate for them.

GPC has previously been involved with at least three refugee family resettlements to the area. If you would like to be part of a team from GPC to assist with this undertaking, then let Rev. Nyiri know (email – gpcclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org phone – 717-334-1235, ext. 4). In addition, we are seeking resource information on how our members might be willing to assist these families, hoping we will find ways to help that will fit everyone's special talents and interests. Please read through the items below – if you would be willing to help; have an interest or knowledge; or know someone or some group that might be willing to be contacted then let Rev. Nyiri know (when responding please provide your name; email; phone number).

Area of Need	Description of Need
Housing	Identify and provide suitable housing for the assigned refugee family or families
Household Furnishings	Provide and install household furnishings, bedding, appliances and household utensils as needed
Wardrobe and Seasonal	Assess requirements and provide seasonal clothing and other wardrobe items needed for all family members.
Educational & ESL Services Provision	Provide school backpacks, educational supplies, special equipment. Identify special counseling or English as a Second Language (ESL) services. Help enroll children. Advocate for translation/interpretation services. ESL and Conversational practice for other family.
Transportation	Volunteer to drive for routine transportation needs of families. Enroll adult family members in drivers training and driver's license requirements; solicit vehicle donations when able to drive.
Medical	Help family members connect with medical coverage, and practitioners for medical, dental, optometry.
Government Services or Legal	Help connect with government services and benefits they are entitled to; provide guidance and assistance with immigration and citizenship.
Community Orientation	Orient family to local community resources, pedestrian rules, crosswalks, how to purchase items, finance & banking information or other necessities
Shopping & Commercial	Assist families with locating local shopping and services to meet their basic material needs.
Worship, Recreation, Quality of Life	Introduce families to places of worship and community resources for fellowship, community involvement, education and recreation.
Employment	Help eligible family members connect with job opportunities offered through the resettlement agency or other sources. Assist or locate assistance with resume preparation.
Career Guidance & Mentoring	Provide guidance for reaching career goals, re-training opportunities, meeting U.S. qualifications for practicing their career. Identify community members with relevant professions or trades who may assist.
Financial Assistance	Provide a donation for the purpose of supporting activities to support families.
Miscellaneous	People are needed for help with: Fundraising / Publicity and Outreach / Financial Oversight


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208 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Office: (717) 334-1235
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, Wednesday December 9, 2021**

**December 2021
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

Office Hours

The office will be open

**Mon. - Thurs.
9:00 - 3:00**

and

**Friday
9:00 - 12:00**

December 5	<i>The Real Meaning of Advent</i> Second Sunday in Advent Communion
December 12	<i>A Consistent Brand: John the Baptist</i> Third Sunday in Advent
December 19	8:15 & 11:00 Christmas Cantata: <i>The Seven Noels</i> 9:30 - Children's Christmas Pageant / Carol Sing 3:00 p.m. - " <i>Light in the Midst of Darkness</i> "

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