

GRAPEVINE

November 22, 2022

I have lived in two "Christmas is a big deal here" towns. Williamsburg, VA, and Cambridge, OH.

I grew up on the East Coast and remember our family's very occasional trip out to Williamsburg to see a light show or do some holiday shopping at the "Christmas Shop" in the historic district. Later, my wife and I lived there before going to Ohio and got to witness the town's transformation firsthand! And when we lived in Ohio, every year, the day after Halloween, the spooky decorations came down all at once and all of the Christmas lights, wreaths, and greenery went up. November 1st. And the courtyard square, the very center of town (impossible not to drive through), played Christmas music from the local Christian Radio Station until the New Year.

You can imagine.

There have been some transformations here in Gettysburg already (looking at you, CVS), as we prepare for the holiday season and the birth of our Savior with lights and greenery and bright red stockings and peppermint sticks that never quite seem to go away. It's interesting to think of how much physically things change - our homes adorned with colorful lights and our living rooms warmed by the comforting glow of a Christmas tree.

Yet, I wonder how much we transform on the inside. Our stores do, our streets do, our homes do, even our church will transform. But what about us?

For my family, I am worried it will be hard to get into the Christmas Spirit - we're moving into our house starting mid-December. Our lights and holiday cheer will be all boxed up, along with everything else. You might relate - life is busy and life can be busier! How do we transform in the midst of the chaos?

Advent is, as you know, the season of expectant waiting and preparation for Christ. We simultaneously celebrate the birth of our Savior and prepare for Christ's return. As we no doubt wait expectantly (Olivia, my oldest, would add: excitedly) for the 25th of December to roll around, you might find it grounding to start a devotional practice. Something that cuts through the noise and speaks straight to our hearts.

If you haven't tried an Advent devotional, maybe this is the year. GPC has some in our Fellowship Hall that can be picked up on Sundays and there are many available online; or come by the office and Pastor Lou or I can recommend one of our favorites.

The point of devotionals in the season of Advent is to focus your attentiveness to Christ. Barbara Chaapel writes: "This is Advent living — living watchfully. Living in readiness — readiness to help, to stand with neighbor, to name injustice where we see it, to look for signs of God's realm and presence in every day, in every encounter, in every moment."

As our borough transforms, how will you change, Spiritually? What will God attune your eyes to see and ears to hear as we stand between "Christ is born," and "Christ will come again?" May the Spirit lead you, encourage you, and mold you this year as you grow in Christ.

Pastor Caleb

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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
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

Jack McClure
June Powers

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
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
Scott Zanger

December 30

Sandra Breighner
Carolyn Hankey

Anne Warcup

December 31

Andy Armstrong
Lynne Orner

I would like to thank my church family for their prayers and cards on the recent passing of my Aunt Millie. The Gettysburg Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a very important part of my life

Pat Smith

MISSION PRAYER LIST

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

11/27 Ben & Emily Okello

Ben & Emily are in Kenya overseeing an orphanage with many children. Ben also plants churches through Kenya.

12/4 Adams County Mission

Adams County Mission works with men struggling with substance abuse, runs a thrift store, and a recycling ministry.

12/11 Fruitbelt Farmworkers Ministry

This ministry is at seasonal workcamps throughout the region.

Please consider including them in your own prayers!

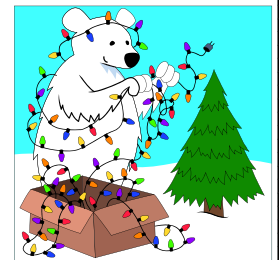
I would like to thank my GPC family for all the prayers, calls, cards and visits the last 3 weeks.

I am so blessed to be part of this caring congregation.

Love,

Lucy Breighner

We would welcome your help decorating the church for Advent on



Wednesday, November 30 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Margo Har if you would like to volunteer 978-807-3750.



GETTYSBURG C.A.R.E.S. OVERNIGHT SIGN-UP CHALLENGE

GETTYSBURG C.A.R.E.S. challenges our church congregation to a 1-night overnight sign-up. There are **homeless people out there that really need our help and all it takes is for a lot of people to each sign up for one night!!!!**

All volunteers must do is:

- Warrant check - free and easy
- View Power Point for training and paperwork - 10 minutes
- Initial vaccines for COVID

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. can NOT operate without overnight volunteers. This program has been supported for **10 years by this community** and CARES knows that we can do this. All it takes is for each trained or newly-trained person that is eligible to sign up for one night. It is a rewarding experience when you hear from the woman who has slept in her truck for three months and is relieved to be able to stretch out for a full night's sleep at the church!! We can do this! Just one night!!!

The church with the most night sign-ups get the winning certificate and bragging rights!!!!

JOIN THE CHALLENGE - STOP HOMELESSNESS!!

Christmas Mission Fair Games

We are still in need of a few volunteers to help with games/activities. Time slots are for 30mins between 4:30pm and 7pm. Games and activities are simple to run and instructions will be at each station. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall by the automatic doors.



Calling All Glasses

One of our most popular games at the Christmas Fair is the Penny Pitch.

If you missed out on donating to the rummage sale and still need to find a new home for some of your glassware, we would be happy to help. Please bring washed glassware to the church office by the morning of December 4th.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will meet on Wednesday, December 7, 11:30am., at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Road. Whitney Myers, our guest pianist, will lead us in singing Christmas carols & presenting their stories. Appetizers & desserts will be provided by our members. A special welcome to newcomers.



Volunteers Needed!

The Contemporary Worship Service needs people to help project the PowerPoint during the 9:30 a.m. contemporary service. No experience needed- you will be trained. You will be working in a rotation of four to five people, so you would most likely be scheduled every four to five weeks.

If interested, please see Libby Crowe or Carrie Conklin, or contact Libby at (717) 476-0821.

“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. Please put your donations in the bin by the elevator.

For the month of:

November

We will be collecting items for

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.

Instant coffee and hot chocolate, tea bags, hot beverage cups, anti-bacterial wipes, Soft Soap/hand sanitizer, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, multi-purpose cleaner, toothpaste, deodorant, canned soup, pudding cups, cookies, crackers and granola bars.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP November / December

November 27	NO SHIP	Thanksgiving Break
December 4	4:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Fair
December 11	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Games
December 18	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Silly Gift Exchange

MidSHIP Schedule November / December

November 27	NO MidSHIP	Thanksgiving Break
December 4	4:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Fair
December 11	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Games
December 14	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Bake Christmas Cookies for Shut-Ins
December 18	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Silly Gift Exchange

Our next **YOUNG AT HEART** potluck lunch and meeting will be held at **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, December 8th.**



We'll deck the halls with a few favorite Christmas carols AND don our favorite holiday sweaters!

Our guest speaker will be Angel Perez, Chaplain for the Adams County Corrective Center. Hear about the new opportunities and trainings offered soon for anyone interested in participating in Prison Ministry.

Deadline to reserve your spot is Friday, December 2 by phoning Penny in the office at 717-334-1235 or email:

gpcadmin@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Light in the Midst of Darkness

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

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2022
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Steet

(Livestream of service opens at 2:50 p.m.)
(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...



Copy or print the above invitation card as a front-to-back / flip on long edge / then cut in half to send or give to someone you know for whom the upcoming Christmas season is not particularly joy-full.

If you prefer the church send one out to someone, then call or email Rev. Nyiri in the church office with the name and address of the person to whom you would like an invitation mailed.

717-334-1235, ext. 4 – or –

gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org.

*Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325*

Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year.

While the world celebrates, for many it is a time to remember persons & events that have been a part of our lives, but that are now changed or gone. Into this time of year with the longest nights, 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 or via the livestream (accessed through our website home page) on Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us for this candle-lit time of music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, and prayer.

God's Peace be with you.

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2022 Christmas Missions Fair is here!

It's Christmas Fair time once again, and it is better than ever! For the next three Sunday mornings, Nov 20th, Nov 27th, and Dec 4th, you will be able to browse the Silent Auction, Craft Sales, and Fair Trade items from PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT including coffee, tea, chocolate bars, organic roasted almonds and olive oil. Direct Support Gift Letters for GPC mission projects will also be available for purchase. On Sunday, Dec 4th please make plans to bring your family, friends and neighbors to the big event... the Christmas Mission Fair Celebration will be held at GPC from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be small-change games and prizes for children, delicious food for the whole family, craft tables, baked goods as well as your last chance to purchase items from the Silent Auction, Direct Support Letters, and Craft Sales tables. Remember that every purchase you make during this event goes to benefit the seven projects listed below:

1. **MISSION: YUCATAN MEXICO 2023.** Next summer GPC will again lead a group to work with Accion Ministry in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. They'll live and work in a village where they'll do a construction project on a church or home, run a Vacation Bible School, and give out glasses to those in need. There are also opportunities to fellowship and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Your donation will help to buy construction materials for our project!
2. **MISSION: SOUTH CAROLINA SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.** Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization in which volunteers build homes for low-income families. These families then provide their own labor and can purchase homes with no-interest mortgages. Members of our congregation will travel to John's Island, South Carolina, in May to participate in various building projects.
3. **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL.** Our Christmas Fair first began in 1986 to support Heifer International, a self-help program which sends livestock to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. These families become self-sufficient through training and gifts of livestock which help them become responsible for their own food needs. Farmers who receive animals must commit to pass on the first-born offspring of that animal to a neighbor in need.
4. **RISE AGAINST HUNGER ALL-CHURCH EVENT.** By partnering with organizations like GPC, Rise Against Hunger facilitates meal-packing events that are a fun way to build fellowship, create outreach opportunities, and make a big impact on meeting the needs of food-insecure peoples around the world! Your gift to RAH through Christmas Mission Fair will help fund our next RAH event at GPC!
5. **MISSION: HIGH SCHOOL WORKCAMP.** Each summer Pastor Lou leads our High School aged youth on a journey of faith, fun, and self-discovery. Your gift of support will ensure that every student who is interested is able to attend this impactful mission trip!
6. **SCAAP GETTYSBURG FOOD PANTRY.** Our local food pantry has increasingly become the go-to source for local families in need. Your gift will directly support those who need a little assistance this year.
7. **GETTYSBURG SOUP KITCHEN.** Feeding the hungry in our community is the first step to sharing Christ's love. Thank you for your support of this crucial ministry.

Come to the Christmas Fair to buy "gifts that will keep on giving" to people in need throughout the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact the church office 334-1235. See you at the fair!

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.

Nov. 14 - Dec. 11 please contact Ross Brownley at 717-873-5395





Advent Schedule

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

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

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Christmas
Cantata— "*Carol Fantasy*"
with brass
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. Family Worship and
"Birthday Party for Jesus"
(ages 3 - Grade 3)
5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship
8:30 p.m. Traditional Worship

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

December 25- Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship

Come and Celebrate the Season



Advent is upon us and as we wait patiently for Christ to arrive, we have some devotionals to keep you focused this season. We are offering an adult devotional called *A Wonderful Life in Christ* by Michael Hoy and a family with children devotional called *Do Not Be Afraid* by Illustrated Ministry. Both devotionals can be found in Fellowship Hall on a table near the automatic doors.

Incarnation

A new Sunday School class is being offered starting November 27th (the first Sunday of Advent!). This class is being taught by Merida Hurkett and will focus on the book *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton. Merida has suggested that having a copy of the book would be beneficial. We have them for sale in Fellowship Hall near the automatic doors for \$17.

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" (*Psalms 94:18*)

We need your help:

Our GPC Visitation Team consists of: Rev. Caleb McClure, Rev. Lou Nyiri, Phyllis Dowd, and Pam Phillips, FCN.

Our Visitation Team is available for spiritual and emotional support to all GPC members/friends in the times of hospitalizations, illnesses, or other events.

Please notify the Church office at 717-334-1235 if you, a family member, or friend need contact from one of our Visitation Team members. Requests can be confidential. We cannot offer our services if we are not "in the know". Don't hesitate to reach out to us for any needs. Thank you!

I am looking for someone who might be interested in leading a "chair Yoga" class at GPC. If you know of an instructor in the area, please reach out to me with their contact information.

Did you know that 25 people took a test kit to sign up for "Be the Match" this fall? These volunteers' genetic information will be added to the "Be the Match" registry. Ages 18- 40 can sign up using the barcode on the flyer located on the FCN bulletin board, text "GPC4Jen 61474", or contact Pam Phillips for a kit.

Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777 or email gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org



Men's Interfaith Luncheon

All men are invited on **Wednesdays, December 7 & 14** during Advent 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.

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 24th & 25th. You may pick up your plant(s) following evening worship on the 24th or Tuesday the 27th 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. **Those not picked up by noon on Wednesday, 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 Flinger
1360 Tract Rd.
Fairfield, PA 17320

Orders MUST be in by Sunday, December 2nd .
We cannot accept orders after that date—No extensions.

Christmas Poinsettias 2022

Given by: _____

Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

of plants you will pick up _____ # of plants to be delivered to shut-ins _____




Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
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, Thursday, December 1, 2022**

**November / December 2022
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

November 27	Rev. Caleb McClure Preaching First Sunday of Advent
December 4	Rev. Caleb McClure Preaching Second Sunday of Advent Communion
December 11	Rev. Lou Nyiri Preaching Third Sunday of Advent

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