

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

January 3, 2024

Happy New Year!

What's your New Year's resolution? Mine this year is to let go of some of that self-doubt I carry around with me. Hear these words from Micah 7:19:

*He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.*

Growing up my father always would say, after we did something wrong (and got punished for it!), that we would "throw it into the sea of God." Whatever it was, once it was done and over with, we would move on together. In other words, we got to start over. I carried that with me all my life and continue to carry it with me today.

And it was during our Micah bible study class that I learned my dad's statement was actually Scripture – I always thought it was just one of his sayings. Imagine my surprise! Four years of seminary, a decade of ministry, and only now learning this saying my dad used for years comes from the minor prophet Micah.

As I think about my new year's resolution this year, I am thinking about my dad's expression that turned out to be Scripture: throw it into the sea of God. What things am I carrying around that I need to part with this year? What needs to be thrown into the sea of God as I move into the New Year? I can answer easily: my self-doubt, my lack of confidence, my worry about not being the best.

I wonder what it is that you might need to throw into the sea of God? What heavy burdens have you been lugging around this past year that you could shed into God's sea? Whatever those burdens are, let the prophet Micah remind you of a few truths about our God: God pardons you, God forgives you, God does not stay angry but delights in mercy, God shows you compassion, God is faithful to you, God loves you, God will keep his covenant with you.

Remember: God is big enough to handle your burdens – so unload. Give it away. Be free from those heavy loads, and ready to face a new year full of the assurance of God's promises to you.

May you each have a Happy New Year.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Caleb

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CHILDREN'S CHOIR

(ages 3 to 5th grade)

Meets every Sunday
during the 11AM
Worship Service



THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank Betsy & Montford Illick on the donation of your beautiful tree in the sanctuary during Advent.



"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:

January

We will be collecting items for

The Gettysburg Soup Kitchen:

Non-perishable canned and boxed food items (not opened or past expiration date), bottled water, coffee (instant and grounds), coffee creamer, hot chocolate, granola bars, fruit snacks, individually wrapped snacks, drink mixes, juices, boxed mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, Ramen noodles, biscuit mix, bath soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo.

Please no glass items.

Stewardship 2024 IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.

If you have not, please place them in the offering plate on Sunday morning or turn them into the church office at your earliest convenience.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Betty Brownley on the recent death of her mother.



Our Annual
Congregational Meeting
will be **Sunday, January 28,**

following the
11:00 a.m.
WORSHIP SERVICE
in the sanctuary.

Plan to attend in person
or on-line!

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

January

Jan. 7	12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Bowling
Jan. 14	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games
Jan. 21	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Service & Workcamp Info
Jan. 28	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games

Mid-SHIP SCHEDULE

January

Jan. 7	12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Pizza & Bowling
Jan. 14	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games
Jan. 21	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games
Jan. 28	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games

Envelopes & Contributions

Please pick up your 2024 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. If you don't see your envelopes or you would like to start getting envelopes, or you are interested in ACH giving please contact Penny in the church office.

YOUTH CLUB

January

Jan. 7	12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Bowling
Jan. 14	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Beatitudes @ GPC
Jan. 21	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Beatitudes @ GPC
Jan. 28	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Baking with Ms. Barb

Each of us can help save a life! How? By recognizing the warning signs and symptoms of a Heart Attack. A Heart attack, aka a "Myocardial Infarction," can develop in either sex, at any age, time, or place.

What is a Heart Attack? A Heart attack is a serious, life-threatening medical emergency that occurs when the blood supply to the heart is *suddenly* blocked.

Signs and Symptoms: A person can develop more than one sign/symptom.

- Chest discomfort (can be described as pressure, tightness, squeezing, sharp, stabbing, heaviness of the chest)
- Pain can feel like it's spreading from chest to arms, usually in the left, but can affect both, jaw, neck, back and stomach
- Sweating
- Lightheaded, dizziness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Anxious feeling
- Physical appearance (persons color is ashen, gray, pale, just doesn't look right)

A Swedish study published in the British Medical Journal in 2018 found that an average of 50 heart attacks occurred every day, but this number rose to 69 on Christmas Eve.

If you think someone is having a heart attack, call 911 right away. Do not drive them to the hospital regardless of how close you live to the nearest facility.

If the person stops breathing, and or the heart stops beating, initiate CPR and get the AED (Automated External Defibrillator).



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



2024 Chancel Flowers

The new calendar is available on the bulletin board in

Fellowship Hall to sign up for the Chancel flowers in 2024.

The price of flowers is \$35.00



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.

Dec. 11 - Jan. 14

Contact Linda MacAskill at: 717-334-2598.

Jan. 15 - Feb. 11

Contact Leslie Casteel at: 717-387-1088.

Custodian Help Needed:

Seeking a person to serve as custodian one Sunday each month during both services and the Sunday School/Fellowship time. Duties include: opening the church; turning lights on in the rooms that will be used; checking to make sure rooms are set up as needed for classes; preparing coffee, tea and water service and taking everything into Fellowship Hall. At the end of the morning, cleaning up and making sure everything is put away and lights are turned off around the building. Larry will provide thorough training for all duties.

The pay will be hourly for the time spent at the church in the morning. The position is available to a church member or someone from outside the church, so please feel free to pass the information along to others who might be interested. For more information or to apply, please contact the church office, 717-334-1235 or Kelly Jones at 717-752-0668 or kjones@gettysburg.edu.

KELLY JONES



SUPER GAME NIGHT AT GPC

We welcome everyone, young and old, to join us Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., for a night of fun and exciting table games. From Jenga, Uno, Dominos, Apples to Apples, Bananagrams, Catch Phrase, Charades, Twister, Pictionary, and many more, there will be a game to suit your style and age. Or you can bring your own favorite game to share and teach the rest of us.

Presbyterian Women(PW) also be serving homemade soups and salad for dinner. Our industrious women will be making huge pots of 10 different kinds of delicious soups to serve. Think Chicken Corn Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, Split Pea with Ham, Chili, Broccoli Cheese and Beef Vegetable. And at the end of the night you'll be able to take some home with you. You can get a 1-quart container of your favorite for \$8.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall in January, so we can get a headcount on the amount of food needed.

Looking forward to seeing you all, Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Any questions, contact Debbie Farnsworth, Margo Har, or Amy Deitch



**Congratulations
to
Patti & Raymond
Schwartz
who recently
celebrated their
55th wedding
anniversary!**

Please join us at 9:45 a.m. January 14th in the MacAskill Room as we welcome the Rev. Howard Burrell in his presentation of "The Civil War's Impact on American Protestantism." He will cover the North/South differences prior to and after the war and the residual effects it has had to today's religious arena.

Mexico Mission Trip Interest Meeting!!!

Sun., Jan. 21 at 7PM in the MacAskill Room

Trip is available for adults and youth who have completed 9th grade. This is a wonderful adventure and opportunity to work with our Mexican brothers and sisters in the Yucatan. We do a little construction (no skills needed), a Vacation Bible School, and a reading glasses ministry in a village. We'll worship and fellowship and also see some Mayan ruins and go to the beach! Spanish is helpful, but not at all necessary!

Dates: Probably early July for a week

Cost: We'll have more info at the meeting! Scholarships are available.

Contact: Rev. David Wright at bdwright11@comcast.net or 717-357-9518 for more information!

Need a place to learn and enjoy some fellowship in-between services? Check out a Sunday School class! If you want to engage more, consider teaching with us on Sunday Mornings. Should you have any questions about teaching, contact Kyle!



Sunday School at 9:45am!
 Join us for an hour of faith development at all ages.

Men's Bible Study - Crane Library
 Family Class - The Sewing Room
 Adult Class - MacAskill Room
 Elementary Classes - Lower Hallway
 The Upper Room Class - 3rd Floor "Youth Room"

*Nursery care is provided during this time

For information or questions
 Contact kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.org



**The Upper Room
 Sunday School Class**

For all High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers

Please join us *Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45*
 in the Youth Room on the 3rd floor of the church
 as we Feast on the Word

for more information please contact
kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

**WORKCAMP
 INFORMATIONAL
 MEETING!!!**

Youth in grades 9th thru 12th grade are invited to join on our annual Youth Mission Trip. Join us more on Sunday Jan. 21st from 6:30pm to 7pm for more information!

Want to help out the various Youth Groups but aren't sure how? Consider cooking us a meal in 2024! On Sunday evenings, we eat from 5:30 to 6pm and the youth are grateful for a homecooked meal around the table and leaders are thankful it is not pizza every week. For more information use the following <http://tinyurl.com/ymhte7r8> or scan the QRcode!



Greetings and Blessings to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



For those who do not know me I am the Rev. Peter J. Roy, your new Covenant Associate Pastor at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve in a congregation that has already been a church home for my family for a couple of years.

For over 13 years I have been in the Gettysburg area, first as a student at United Lutheran Seminary, and then following my first call in Northeast Pennsylvania. I have used Gettysburg as home base as I have served congregations in Carroll County, MD and as a Chaplain for WellSpan Health at Gettysburg Hospital.

Prior to attending seminary between 2008 and 2012, I was a community banker in my hometown of Irvington, NY for 16 years. Living and working in my hometown offered me the opportunity to serve in other capacities as well. I was the youth group leader for the Irvington Presbyterian Church, and I coached soccer at the high school for a few years before getting married. My strongest passion was my involvement as a Volunteer Firefighter and a New York State Certified Emergency Medical Technician for 16 years. My involvement in the emergency service was very rewarding and a constant reminder for me that; "We Do God's Work with Our Hands."

Many of you might know my family already. My parents joined GPC when they relocated to Gettysburg in 2020. Nicole and our kids have been active members of GPC for a couple of years now. Nicole teaches at James Gettys and our younger group of kids (Hope, Byrant, Hudson, Charlie, and Toby) are active in the youth programs. Our older three kids, (Camden, Caroline & Casey) support my ministry in their own ways.



In my spare time I enjoy model railroading and following my beloved Baltimore Orioles. Our family enjoys traveling, both to New York to visit family and friends, and to Walt Disney World where Nicole and I honeymooned 25 years ago, and we never seem to get back to often enough.

Our January potluck get-together will be on
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 12 noon.



Welcome to all aged 50+ members of GPC; Newcomers are always welcome to "try us out" for food and fellowship.

What to expect:

We will provide the chicken, so you can bring salads, sides or dessert to go along with our main course. Following lunch, we will adjourn downstairs to the MacAskill Room for a presentation by Lex McMillan, another Gettysburg retiree, who lived his dream golfing trip while following in the westward footsteps of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His telling of visiting various historic spots along the way allow for plenty of facts and funny stories to share with us.

A donation will be taken to cover the cost of the chicken. All are welcome to attend and invite friends with side dish. To ensure that enough food is ordered and a seat is reserved for you, **EVERYONE please** RSVP Rachel Parmentier (cell phone): 443-994-0241 or email Rachel at Rasong@aol.com **by Monday, January 8th, 2024.**

THE PRAYER PROJECT – JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Thank You Sustaining God for GPC as we enter our 284 th year. Bless and guide our church in every way as we seek to serve You.	2 Holy God, please guide President Biden with Your wisdom so that all of his decisions are within Your will.	3 God of light, shine rays of love and hope into the darkness of those who believe their lives are worthless. May no more commit suicide.	4 Great Physician, in this flu, cold, RSV, and COVID season, we pray for the good health of all people. May there be no more pandemics.	5 Jehovah Jireh, please help people everywhere to weather these storms of inflation and uncertain economic conditions.	6 O Morning Star, as the Magi followed Your light to Bethlehem, may we not forget You in this post-Christmas season.
7 We pray today, O Guiding Spirit, that you will guide, inspire and lead each member of our Session as they set the year's course for GPC.	8 Today Holy Father, we lift up all of Gettysburg's Schools. Imbue all staff with Your wisdom, and may all students enjoy success.	9 Show us, caring Jesus, how to help our neighbors stay warm during these cold winter months. Let heat stay on, and homeless folks find warmth.	10 Just God, we implore you to spare Ukraine and bring a firm end to Russian aggression in Ukraine and against any other country.	11 Compassionate Christ, help us to bring all human trafficking to an end. Let every person be treated with the respect each deserves.	12 As people created in Your image, reconciling God, help all Americans find a way to end our many deep and bitter divisions.	13 Perfect Parent, during this year, many teens will get their driver's license. We pray that all would drive safely forever.
14 Jesus, You heal so many hurts. Bless now GPC's Stephen Ministry in every way as they seek to further Your work.	15 God of all peoples, we pray that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of a color-blind society coexisting in harmony becomes reality.	16 Creator God, guide all governments and industries into careful stewardship of this beautiful world we have.	17 From the beginning, Holy Lord, You ordained us to be male or female. Please guide uncertain and hurting people to embrace what they were born to be.	18 We thank You El Shaddai for all the faithful PennDOT employees and others who plow our roads. May all plow and drive safely.	19 Dearest Jesus, how You love children! Bless children everywhere with all that each needs to grow and thrive.	20 Holy Jesus, we ask your blessings upon the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. Bless all who work with it, and all whom they serve.
21 Thank You, Caring Christ, for the privilege of serving You through Gettysburg CARES. Please bless this ministry richly!	22 Gentle Jesus, we implore You to prevent youth from harming other youth. We pray that they learn better ways to deal with their differences.	23 We pray today, Compassionate Creator, for all those who will give birth this year. May all babies born in 2024 be healthy and whole.	24 Healing God, we pray for all the staff at Gettysburg Hospital. Empower them to heal all who enter with dignity and compassion.	25 God of mercy, bestow tolerance and forbearance upon our nation such that gun violence becomes a thing of the past.	26 We thank You, Protective God, for utility workers who brave the elements to ensure we have power. Bless all and keep them safe.	27 Magnificent Maker, You gave us all things, including animals. Please bless all homeless pets with forever homes, plus all those who work with them.
28 We thank You, Inspirational Spirit, for our contemporary praise band. Bless our musicians and may their music speak Your word into our hearts.	29 Blessed Redeemer, the pull of alcohol or drugs can be irresistible. Empower all who struggle to free themselves from addiction to do so.	30 Lord God, we thank you today for those working to find a cure for Alzheimer's Disease. Please guide and bless all their efforts.	31 God of all tomorrows, please help us as we strive to keep our New Year's resolutions. Help us also to live into our star words.			

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

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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, January 18, 2024**

January 2024
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Traditional Worship @ 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

January 7	Rev. J. Caleb McClure preaching Communion Star Word Selection
January 14	Rev. J. Caleb McClure preaching
January 21	Rev. Peter Roy preaching

To view live stream, go to: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
Just below the announcement pictures.