



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith



From the Pastor's Pen

Giving

I was very pleased with the results of our Stewardship Campaign this year. You might be interested to know that our average pledge for 2018 is \$3,315 for the year (\$276/month or \$63.75/week). As of this writing, eight households have increased their pledged amount from 2017, while two decreased, and six who pledged in 2017 have yet to do so for 2018. **If you haven't yet turned in your commitment card, please do so as soon as possible.**

Advent

You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait
for the right time in which to discover
who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do.
So thank you ... for the waiting time.

Iona Community Worship Book

Welcome to Advent, the Waiting Time. My prayer for you over these weeks is that you will find the time and space to open yourself to waiting. Active waiting: preparing and seeking. And I hope that worship will be part of your waiting time.

Children in Worship

Churches across the country have been thinking hard about the issue of keeping children in worship instead of sending them on to Sunday School, which is the model most of us have been used to over the last 60 years or so. **Some churches like Good Shepherd have come to this because they don't have enough children to create Sunday School classes, but other churches have been thinking about the issue as well.** One of the concerns has to do with the messages we may inadvertently have been communicating to children when we send them out of worship. **Have we taught them that they wouldn't like worship ("worship is boring") or that they aren't welcome in worship? Some scholars have said that one of the reasons Millennials don't attend worship is that when they were children and teenagers, they were shuffled into something more entertaining ... and now as grown-ups they have no real, ongoing experience with worship.**





From the Pastor's Pen Cont.

I believe that it's important for children to be in worship as much as possible because this is the core of our life together—all of us—as Christians. I also recognize that children can be disruptive. But Jesus told his disciples to let the children come to him (and I'll bet some of those Palestinian toddlers were noisy and sticky!) Churches all over are learning to expand their hospitality in the sanctuary to include little voices singing and giggling and asking questions, little hands running trucks on the backs of pews, and little legs running up and down the aisles.

At Good Shepherd we're going to try an experiment for Advent that's meant to show children that they are welcomed and also give them ways to participate in worship that fit their ages. In the back of the sanctuary will be a table and a rug where children are welcome to look at books, play with quiet blocks, color Bible story pages, and more. The children may go back and forth between the children's area and their families. Some may choose not to participate at all. But we're committed to welcoming—and even teaching—our children in worship.

Service of the Longest Night

Christmas is a joyful time. Absolutely. But for some of us, it can also be a difficult time. In my own family, deaths seem to happen between Thanksgiving and Christmas: my brother, my grandmother, my mother, my father, my grandfather, an aunt I never knew. So there's joy—and there's also tenderness. Sadness. Blue times. For some of us it's grief over deaths, for others for the loss of jobs or health or friendships—or simply depressing news of the world.

On Thursday, Dec. 21, the Winter Solstice, we will hold a Service of the Longest Night—designed to acknowledge the darkness in our lives even while we hold to the promise of light. There will be scripture readings, prayers, and hymns ... silence and candle lighting. It's a gentle service, a hopeful service.

I hope you'll plan to come and that you'll invite friends and neighbors.





An Advent of Gratitude



The purpose of this Advent of Gratitude is to remind us of the gifts we already have, what we often take for granted, what we can and should be grateful for. Each daily reminder includes a suggested contribution amount, to be given to a charity of your choice at the end—preferably one that serves those less fortunate.

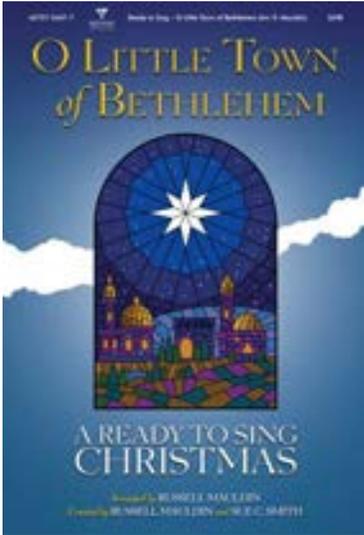
- Day 1: Pay 25¢ for each woman in your family who graduated from high school.
- Day 2: If you rode in a car today, pay \$1.00. Pay \$2.00 if you drove the car.
- Day 3: Count the light switches in your house. Pay 25¢ for each one.
- Day 4: How many pairs of shoes and/or boots do you own? Pay 10¢ per pair.
- Day 5: If you have never experienced having your electricity or heat shut off due to inability to pay the bill, pay \$5.00.
- Day 6: If you have traveled outside the U.S., pay \$2.00. Pay an extra \$2.00 if you have traveled within the past six months.
- Day 7: **Pay \$2.00 if you've bought a gourmet coffee in the past month.**
- Day 8: If you went to work today and earned an income, pay \$2.00.
- Day 9: Pay \$1.00 for every refrigerator/freezer in your home.
- Day 10: Count every cell phone in your home. Pay \$1.00 per phone.
- Day 11: If you graduated from college, pay \$1.00 per degree.
- Day 12: How many televisions do you have? Pay \$1.00 per TV. Pay \$1.00 extra if you subscribe to Netflix.
- Day 13: Open your pantry. If there is more food than you can consume in two days, pay \$2.00.
- Day 14: Pay \$2.00 if you have more than one bank account. Pay an extra \$2.00 if you have investments that earn income.
- Day 15: If you slept in a warm bed last night, pay \$2.00.
- Day 16: If you have visited your doctor this past year for something relatively minor, pay \$2.00.
- Day 17: Count the faucets in your home. Pay 50¢ per faucet.
- Day 18: **If you've bought gifts for others this season, pay \$1.00. If you added "a little something" for yourself, pay an extra \$1.00.**
- Day 19: If your home has more than 25 books, pay \$1.00. If more than 50, \$2.00.
- Day 20: If your parents had a high school education, pay \$1.00. If one attended college, pay \$2.00—\$3.00 if both attended.
- Day 21: If you are traveling more than 75 miles for Christmas festivities, pay \$1.00. Pay \$2.00 if you are confident your vehicle will get you there.
- Day 22: Count the coats in your closet. Pay 25¢ per coat or jacket.
- Day 23: Pay \$2.00 if you can name more than 5 people who love you.
- Day 24: If you have a pet, pay \$2.00. Pay an additional \$2.00 if you have more than one.

Donation Time! Merry Christmas!





Cantata—December 17



Our choir has once again combined with Cowenton and Piney Grove United Methodist churches for our 2017 cantata "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. This cantata has a beautiful video accompaniment. It will be performed at Cowenton Methodist Church on Sunday, December 10, at 9:30 am and at Good Shepherd Presbyterian on December 17 at 11:00 am. We look forward to sharing the story of the birth of our Savior in song with you. Please invite your family and friends to enjoy this musical.



Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 14, 2017—10:00 – 11:30 - Upper Room

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 4— In Community with God's Messengers

READ THE FOLLOWING: Genesis 28:10-22; Daniel 3:8-30; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:5-17; 1:26-38, 2:8-14; Hebrews 1:3-14; 13:1-2

Advent and Christmas are season of hope. What hopes do you have during the Advent and Christmas time of year?

KEY IDEA: Lesson 4 takes us on a tour of angelic messengers in the Bible, and reminds us that *we never know when an encounter may bring us God's messages of love and support.*

Let's celebrate God's messengers by bringing an angel to display at the next lesson: ornament, figurines, picture, Christmas card, etc.

PRAYER LEADER: Erica Robinson **HOSPITALITY:** Millie and Ruth

CLOUD OF WITNESSES: Ellie



[RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS](#)

WE WILL BE GOING OUT FOR LUNCH-SILVER MOON DINER



Sharing Table

As we prepare for our service at The Sharing Table, 2018, please be advised that our service times are the same, the second Saturdays in February-the 10th and August-the 11th.

It has been suggested that we change our menu. I think the suggestion was to go back to a chicken dish. Whoever suggested that we change - sorry I don't remember who made the suggestion - please provide the recipe ASAP to give those who do the cooking a chance to provide concurrence or objections.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!
Bill Starke



Congratulations

Congratulations to Bailey Meyer and Dylan Weathers (Jenna Shunk's sister and brother) for being on the Distinguished Honor Roll at Joppatowne High School.

Thank You

Thank you to all who filled out and turned in a 2018 Estimate of Giving card. If this has slipped your mind please bring it to church or mail it as soon as possible, so that we can finish developing the budget. Thank you for your generosity.

Ellie Pfoutz

Session Highlights: November 9, 2017

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of what's going on at Session meetings, we are committing to reporting on each meeting in the next Yarn.

Church members are always welcome at Session meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00.

Parking Lot Project: The parking lot repair is almost complete. Landscaping will be completed in the Spring.

Review of Membership Rolls: The review of church membership rolls is almost complete. Letters were sent to people who have neither attended nor supported the church in more than two years. In December, Session will review the membership list and determine who should be removed from the rolls.

2018 Budget: The draft 2018 budget was presented for review and discussion by the Finance Committee. Session agree that at least 5% of the total amount of pledges and loose plate offerings should be used for mission expenses.

Security: Property Committee is looking into replacing the outer church doors with doors that have panic bars and installing additional security cameras.



The Yarn

Deacons

Good Shepherd had a busy November. Due to your generosity we provided Thanksgiving dinners to 25 families. Thank you for being a blessing to those less fortunate.

You asked and we listened! The new "Star Kids" Program was well received. We delivered 26 Christmas presents to Extreme Family Outreach. Our gifts will be distributed on Monday, December 4th at their annual "Holiday of Hope" Christmas Party. Thank you for bringing a smile to a child.

We hope to work with this organization in other areas. Check them out on Facebook, or pick up a brochure.

Know of someone ill, needing a visit? Contact Elaine Tich and give her the information.

Reminder: Redners tapes are being collected.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Shepherd's Kids

We continue to carry out our mission to share Jesus with the young children in our community. We give thanks for our members who show up each week to cook and lead the children. If you have not ever volunteered, you have no idea the joy you are missing. We will meet with the children on December 13th and 20th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Feel free to invite children and join us if you are so moved.

THE ICE CREAM WAS DELICIOUS!

Thanks Mrs. Jeanette!



Happy & Happy



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 18, 1960

Elaine and Jerry Tich

December 19, 2004

Edith and David Burns

December 21, 2013

Valerie & Barry Davis

The Deacons would like the church family to know your important day! If we do not have yours in our file, please notify

Ellie Pfoutz, 410-679-4813.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

8 Eleanor Williams

10 Elaine Tich

11 Lou Cosner

12 Kathleen Causey

13 Redet Fiseha

13 Jim Petnic

14 Carl Phillips

15 Gert Bruno

16 Ellie Pfoutz

18 Wayne Douglas

20 Nancy Byrne

24 Jerry Tich

30 Christene Bohns

Ushers

Ushers:

Dec. 3 Petnic, Workman

Dec. 10 Tich, McKemy, Morgan

Dec. 17 Douglas, Webster, Starke

Dec. 24 Maas, Wronowski

Dec. 31 Young

Tellers:

Bohns, Kent

Starke, Webster

Pfoutz, Tich

PreVatte, Workman

Baranowski, Maas

Readers:

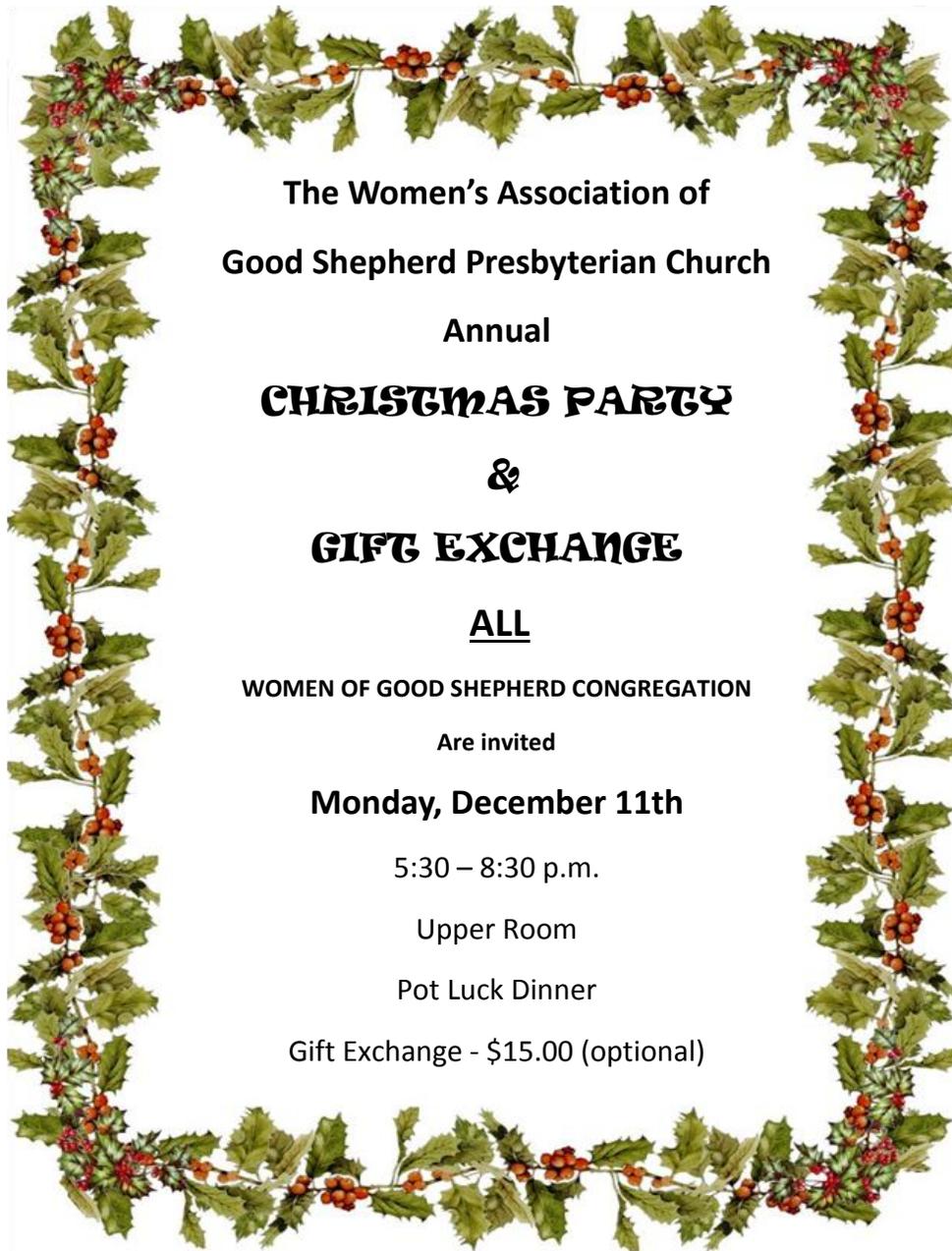
PreVatte

Baranowski

Cantata

11:00-Young 7:00-PreVatte

Readers



The Women's Association of
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Annual

CHRISTMAS PARTY

&

GIFT EXCHANGE

ALL

WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

Are invited

Monday, December 11th

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Upper Room

Pot Luck Dinner

Gift Exchange - \$15.00 (optional)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 17 Cantata 11:00

December 21 Service of the Longest Night 7:00

December 24 Sunday Worship 11:00

Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00

December 25 Merry Christmas



The Yarn

Officers

ELDERS:

Class of 2018

Gary Workman
Mary Kaye Kent
Jerry Tich
Lynn Villa

Class of 2019

Sounghee Baranowski
Hazel Morgan
Gail Wronowski

Class of 2020

Cindy PreVatte
Ellie Pfoutz
Farrell Maddox
Mike Bohns
Valerie Davis

DEACONS:

Class of 2018

Becky McKemy
Norma Webster
Susan Luu

Class of 2019

Clay Maas
Elaine Tich
Chris Bohns

Class of 2020

Redet Fiseha
Ashley Andrews
Allen Wronowski

Prayer List

Philip Pugh, Wayne Weich, Diana Ciccotelli, Rodger & Vyona Bultena, Ed Matthai, Mike McKemy, Suzy Phillips, Bill Hanna, Steve Morgan, Dr. Whiteford, Steve Rapley, Jody, Gene Slater, Frank T, The Pinkosz Family, The Sherin Family, Cliff & Dottie Potter, The Shunk Family, Bob Rudolph

gsprayers@juno.com



December 2017

Sunday, 3	Worship 11:00 1st Sunday Pot Luck Lunch Food Closet Sunday
Wednesday, 6	Deacons 6:30 Choir 7:30
Sunday, 10	Cantata Cowenton Methodist 9:30 Worship 11:00 Coffee 12:00
Wednesday, 13	Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00
Thursday, 14	Women's Bible Study 10:00 Session 7:00
Sunday, 17	Worship—Cantata 11:00
Wednesday, 20	Shepherd Kids 5:30-7:00 Choir 7:30
Thursday, 21	Service of the Longest Night 7:00
Sunday, 24	Worship 11:00 Family Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00
Monday, 25	Merry Christmas
Sunday, 31	Worship 11:00 Coffee 12:00



Address Change

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