



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith

From the Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year!

Jewish people often put a small box (called a *mezuzah*) on each doorframe throughout their home, which they touch each time they go in or out. The mezuzah contains a small parchment containing the words of the *Shema Israel*: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD (is) our God, the LORD is One." The practice reminds Jews of the centrality of God in their lives.

There's also a Christian tradition involving the doorposts of a home, called the **Epiphany Chalk Blessing**. The idea is that at the beginning of each year—right around Epiphany (January 6)—people would mark their homes with a blessing. What a great idea, right? To inscribe on the doorway of your home something that will remind you that you and your home are in God's hands. That you and your home are, like the Magi, always open to finding Christ.

Here's the blessing:

On the lintel of your front door (or nearby), use chalk to mark these characters:

20 C M B 18

The beginning and ending characters indicate the year: **2018**

The letters are for the traditional names of the Magi: **C** for Caspar, **M** for Melchior, and **B** for Balthasar. *CMB* also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House."

I invite you to do this or some other way of symbolically marking your home as belonging not only to you but to God. Here's a prayer you may pray as you make the marks:

The three Magi,
C Caspar,
M Melchior,
and B Balthasar
followed the star of God's Son who became human
20 two thousand
18 and eighteen years ago.
May Christ bless our home
and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.





STAR WORDS

In worship on December 31, we handed out "star words"—words printed on paper stars, meant to guide our praying and thinking in this new year. If you weren't here that day and would like a star word, see me! If you'd like to read more about here's the sermon on my blog: <https://revjeannegay.wordpress.com/2017/12/31/star-words-2/>

My own word is *honesty*. And, honestly, I'm curious to see where it will take me in 2018!



it,

Hope For The Homeless

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church has committed to partnering with Joppa Christian Church with their "Hope For The Homeless" effort.

Joppa Christian Church

725 Trimble Road

Joppa, MD 21085

Pastor: Adam Shellenbarger

Coordinator: Jessie Ferrigno

GOOD SHEPHERD'S COMMITMENT:

Date: Monday, January 29, 2018.

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Setting up of cots

Time: 5:30 p.m. - Provide meal for 35 +/- persons

PROPOSED MENU:

Chili

Cole Slaw

Cornbread

Beverage

Desert

GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS:

Cot Assemblers:

Barry Davis

Clay Maas

Lamiteck Chiongola

Meal Providers:

Vickie Maas

Cindy PreVatte

Kathy Young

Norma Webster

Anyone interested in participating in this effort can contact, Norma Webster.



Women's Bible Study



Thursday, January 11, 2018 10:00 – 11:30 Upper Room

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 5– In Community with the Tradition of the Past

READ THE FOLLOWING: Hebrews 3:1-6; 11

Is there a seasonal tradition from your family, neighborhood, friends or faith community that you find especially meaningful? What is it? Why does it bring meaning?

KEY IDEA: Lesson 5 helps us remember the things our ancestors in the faith have bequeathed to us. The faith tradition supports us by showing us both the successes and stumbles of biblical characters. We also have our own *Book of Confessions* that guides us to our Reformed tradition.

"Is there a particular religious memento that you hold dear from your past? Bring it to our next session to share."

PRAYER LEADER: Winsome **HOSPITALITY:** Dolores **CLOUD OF WITNESSES:** Ellie



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

BRING A LUNCH

Women's Association—2018 Activity Dates

2018 Activity Dates:

The Women's groups have many activities planned for the New Year! Please plan to join us for our Bible Studies and for our "Hummingbird" missions. Even if you have not been attending our Bible Study, you can start now! All women are invited!!!

Thursday, January 11 10:00 AM:

Circle Bible Study Lesson 5 – In Community with the Tradition of the Past
Board Meeting - (following Bible Study)

Thursday, January 25 10:00 AM :

Make Valentine bags for the Sharing Table

Please bring pre-packaged candies, crackers, snacks, etc. to fill the bags.

Pillowcase Dresses Project : Joan Pugh, Mary Kaye Kent

In February and March we will begin making our pillowcase dresses. No prior experience is needed!!!

Dates for making dresses

Thursday February 22

Thursday March 1

Thursday March 22 (each Thursday at 10:00)



Sharing Table



Dear Good Shepherd members and friends. Feb 10, 2018 is our first date to serve the guests at The Sharing Table, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 2600 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood; about a block beyond Edgewood High School.

We need your participation to make this ministry a success. A few of our regular participants we know will not be available this time; so we really need others to volunteer their time and talents to ensure the success of our service.

Should you be willing to prepare a casserole, the pans and recipe are located behind the door in the Church Office. If you do not care to prepare casseroles, but would be willing to assist in serving the meal, you need to know the following:

1. Sign up on the schedule sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.
2. The time to arrive at Prince of Peace (use the entrance on the backside of the church via the parking lot) is 10 am.
3. The first items of business will be to set up the dining hall and getting the meal items prepared.
4. Meal service starts at 11:30 am. and ends at 1 pm.
5. After serving the meal, we must then clean the dining hall and kitchen.

If you feel you would not be able to stay the entire time, but could assist with the cleaning at the end of the day, you should indicate that and your arrival time would be 1:00 pm.

The Women's Group will again celebrate Valentine's Day with special gifts for the guests.

We do hope you will consider joining us for this very special service for those in our community who benefit from it. Our next date of service will be August 11, 2018.

Donations for the Sharing Table—February 10, 2018

Each year the Ladies have been making Valentine Bags to give to each client at our February Sharing Table. If you would like to participate, please bring commercially pre-packaged candies, crackers, snacks, etc. to fill the bags.

Also on that day, we have been taking new or gently worn clothing such as coats, scarves, winter hats, gloves to donate. Other adult or children clothing is also appreciated.

Toiletries (hotel samples or regular size) are always a big hit too. Last year we noticed a real need for moisturizing lotion.

Any of these items can be brought to church starting January 21 through February 4. Valentine goodies are needed before January 25.

We need the whole church to help us with this project!!

THANK YOU!!!!



The Yarn

Deacons

2018 is off to a cold start. Burr. Remember to check on neighbors and family members making sure they are safe.

The Deacons will be providing lunch for our Congregational Gathering Sunday, January 7, following worship. Please attend as we continue to search for our new pastor.

In February we will be having our annual Movie Night. Details will follow. As always this will involve food.



Shepherd's Kids

December brought more smiling faces as we prepared for Christmas. Good Shepherd is blessed to be able to touch these young lives, and we are truly thankful for the adults who come each week and give of their time to touch the hearts of our children and teach them about Jesus.

Looking forward to **January 10th and 17th**, when we will meet again.



Session Highlights: December 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 Yarn.

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

Upcoming church meetings:

JAN 7 - Congregational Analysis meeting. Second of 3 meetings led by Pastor Gay. We will focus on who we are as a congregation.

FEB 4 - Congregational Meeting: Directly after the service, we will remain in the sanctuary for a 15-20 minute business meeting.

FEB 11 - Congregational Analysis meeting. This will be the last gathering and focuses on our future missions, needs and wants.

Outside Doors repairs: The Session wants to ensure that the congregation and staff are safe. The Property Committee had a contractor look at our outside doors and make recommendations on security (self-locking panic bars) and complying with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Ushers

Ushers:

Jan. 7	Petnic, Workman
Jan. 14	Tich, McKemy, Morgan
Jan. 21	Douglas, Webster, Starke
Jan. 28	Maas, Wronowski

Tellers:

Bohns, Kent
Starke, Webster
Pfoutz, Tich
PreVatte, Workman

Readers:

Vickie Mass
Clay Maas
Edie Burns
Sue Thompson

Tellers

Readers



Coffee for Our Parents

In November we started serving our parents coffee and donuts as they dropped off their children for our Children's Center. This is our way of saying: "Thanks for allowing us the opportunity to care for and nurture your children." We are also providing them with information about our church and what we offer our community.

Thanks to Dorothy Burns and Farrell Maddox for serving in November and December. Deacon's, Norma Webster and Elaine Tich, have volunteered to serve in January. This makes for an early morning with a 5:30 A.M. set-up, but you are done by 9:30 and the parents are appreciative as they rush though in an effort to get to work on time. If you or you committee would like to volunteer for a future month, see Dorothy or Farrell. This is truly an energizing way to meet and share our good work with others.

Best Choir Ever

Thank you to Edie and all the members of our choir. What an amazing group of people. Christmas requires an extra dash of commitment and time, this team never blinks an eye. Their work, dedication and love of our Savior are evident in every rehearsal and performance. I feel so very blessed that God led me to Good Shepherd to have this opportunity. No words could describe the joy that comes to me every time we are together.

Farrell Maddox



We Appreciate Your Support

Thanks to our Congregation and friends for filling our sanctuary on December 17, 2017 to hear the choir cantata "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Your love and support is contagious, warming hearts and minds!



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, Lynda Bates, Steve Morgan, Dr. Whiteford, Steve Rapley, Trudy & Paul Langenstein, Tracey Webster, Paul Neal, Rita Lacotti, Emma Sconion, Janelle Meyers, Bunnie & Bill Howard, Missy & Family, The Family of Bob Warren, Mary Lynne Little, Joyce Martin, Melissa Martin, Diane Petty



gsprayers@juno.com

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Monday, 1
Wednesday, 3

Happy New Year
Deacons 6:30
Choir 7:30



Sunday, 7

1st Sunday—Food Closet Donations
Adult Sunday School 9:30
Worship 11:00

Congregational Gathering 12:00—Lunch Provided
New Pastor Study Continues

Monday, 8
Wednesday, 10

Facilities Meeting 6:00
Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00
Choir 7:30

Thursday, 11

Women's Bible Study 10:00
Session 7:00

Sunday, 14

Adult Sunday School 9:30
Worship 11:00
Coffee 12:00

Monday, 15

Martin Luther King Day
Office Closed

Wednesday, 17

Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00
Choir 7:30

Sunday, 21

Adult Sunday School 9:30
Worship 11:00
Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 24

Choir 7:30
Women's Association 10:00

Thursday, 25

Sunday, 28

Adult Sunday School 9:30
Worship 11:00
Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 31

Choir 7:30

Happy-Happy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 7, 1967

Hazel and Jim Morgan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8 Delores Barr

9 Matthew Ciccotelli

11 Seaver Shunk

14 Jeff Withrow

18 Suzanne Phillips

20 Helen Cunion

21 Norma Webster

30 Betty Walko



*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.*