



## Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

### PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

We have just finished eating too much at the Thanksgiving table. And now Advent is upon us as we look to the birth of our Savior.

One Christmas which stands out for me took place many years ago. It was the early 70's and I was in high school. I recall asking my Father what he wanted for Christmas. He became silent, and I asked a second time. Then he said with moist eyes: "I only wish Kay could get better, and come home from the hospital." Kay was my younger sister, child number 8. Weeks earlier she had been diagnosed as suffering from bipolar illness, manic-depression.

Mental illness is so tough to watch for a family, and I can not imagine how difficult it is to experience. My Father felt helpless as all of us watched and hoped the medication would help my sister get her life back. In time, that did happen.

But Kay struggled with this illness for about forty years. In spite of the illness, she lived each day with a keen wit and a big heart. Each year she would send my daughters a birthday card, with a five dollar bill in it. Her heart was generous even as she faced huge challenges simply to maintain her own health, which was fragile.

I miss my sister a lot. One morning the county nurse found Kay on her couch as she suffered a heart attack. I still recall her memorial service and how the people of our church came out to support me and my siblings. Their prayers and their presence meant so much to me and my family.

Kay had a kids heart, and she loved the joy of Christmas. Giving to others came naturally to her. Sometimes when I see the smiles of the children in our school, I think of my sister Kay. I also know that children do occasionally experience fear. The message of the Angels was "Do not be afraid." My sister also needed that assurance.

My prayer for you, and all in our church and school, is that we will approach Christmas with a child's heart: open, receptive, ready to be surprised by God. Please join your church family as we celebrate Christ's birth.

Maybe this is a prayer you could offer regularly this last month of the year:

Heavenly Father,  
Whatever their age, we are thankful for children:

Their excitement,  
Their relentless energy,  
Their questions,  
Their spontaneity,  
Their openness to love,  
Their willingness to trust,  
Their innocent honesty.

Yes, children do worry us. Their energy and excitement seem like restlessness. Their questions sometimes embarrass us. Their spontaneity threatens our rigidity.

Their love and willingness to trust is so unlike our close-to-the-vest ways. And their honesty slices through our deceptive superficiality. Yet they bring to life what we may have lost: a sense of wonder.

Is that why Jesus wanted them around him? Is that why he said we would never enter the kingdom if we could not become like children. So bless the children in our midst, and open our hearts that we would receive the Christ Child, again this Christmas.

Bless and protect children. Keep them safe and fill them when they hunger. Strengthen children whose nightmares come in daytime, who are not spoiled by anybody, and who often cry themselves to sleep. Use us Lord to show them your love.

For we pray all of this in the name of the Christ Child, our Savior. Amen.

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2: 15

Pastor Keith



The Combined Choirs from  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Cowenton & Piney Grove United Methodist  
Present

Join Us  
on December 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm  
at Piney Grove United Methodist  
201 Bowleys Quarters Road, Baltimore MD 21220  
or  
on December 22, 2019 at 11:00 am  
at Good Shepherd Presbyterian  
622 Joppa Farm Road, Joppa MD 21085

## SPOTTED AROUND JOPPATOWNE!

This season, I was able to join a few ladies and gents of Good Shepherd in handing out Giving Boxes. During my time serving the food pantry mission, I have been blessed to meet many wonderful people. Visitors always boast warm smiles when they stop by, "To see me." as they say. We talk about family, friends, health, ups, and downs. But mostly conversations consist of top-secret tips on how to take basics and make restaurant-quality meals! It's refreshing and inspirational to see these folks persevere with a happy heart through their troubled times. I was charmed to see so many elated reactions to the feast we offered for the holiday. There were tears, laughter, and I even got a few hugs! This was an unforgettable experience that I cannot wait to do again next year! - Trista C.



## REQUESTS FOR OUR PRAYER WARRIORS

Frank Martin, Cindy PreVatte & Merideth, Jeri Tich, Rylan & Landon, their family & medical team, Carla's friend Robin Burdette, Susie Weiss' grandson Captain Jack, their family & medical team, Cindy's friend Sonia, Melissa & her family, Millie Fike's friends, Kitty & Wally Lepson, Cindy's Friend Jenn, her late husband & their family, Trista & Rikku, Joan's friend Kathy Mahoney & her family, Chris' late mother in law Erma Fischer & their family, Jenna Shunk, and Ethan's mother Ginny.



If you or someone you know has a need that you would like to submit a prayer request for, please reach out to our prayer team at: [gsprayers@juno.com](mailto:gsprayers@juno.com)

## DEACON'S CORNER

### Thanksgiving - Thanks for giving!

You did it again, your generosity helped provide a full Thanksgiving meal for 22 families. In addition, we delivered 30 beautiful Christmas gifts to the children involved with Extreme Family Ministries. We can't say thank you enough. People of Good Shepherd, you truly are Shepherds to those who are in need. God Bless you for all you do, all of the time.



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On **Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00**, Men are needed to help with the important task of assembling the sanctuary Christmas Tree. Other Christmas preparation tasks will also be done that day.

Please join us as we begin to prepare for our Christmas Celebrations.

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We will be collecting gloves and hats throughout December until mid January. These items will be distributed to schools in Edgewood, Aberdeen and others in Harford County. Please place in the white hamper at the back of the church.



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## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



**Decorating the Christmas Tree and Sanctuary - Thursday, December 5. 10:00**, also making the luminaires and burlap handouts for the Longest Night Service.

### Women's Christmas Party:

**Sunday, December 8**, following Coffee Hour, setting up tables for the Women's Christmas Party.

**Monday, December 9, 6:00-8:30 Women's Annual Christmas Party (Monday at 4:30** Decorating for the party) See flyer for details

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### **GSPC WOMEN'S CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday, **December 12, 2019**

<<<<<<10:00 am - 12:00 pm >>>>>>

Upper Room

[LOVED CARVED IN STONE](#) A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

**LESSON FOUR:** Words of Love: Honor the Life Givers

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:12 and Luke 9:57-62

**LESSON PURPOSE:** To explore the gift of life and our responsibility to those who bring us to life.

**LIFE WOUND:** Rootlessness, unforgiveness and a disdain for life itself.

**PAUSE & REFLECT:** **What is one example of wisdom you learned from parents**, grandparents, or other elders that has impacted your life? What one thing above others would you hope that children in your life learned from you? Please bring a photo of your parents

**We will be going to Butler's for lunch.**

# Christmas 2019 at Good Shepherd Presbyterian

622 Joppa Farm Road, Joppa MD 21085

Please Join Us!

December 21, 2019

7:00 pm The Longest Night  
A worship service for  
those struggling to  
celebrate this holiday.



December 22, 2019

11:00 am A musical to celebrate  
the birth of our Savior



December 24, 2019

4:00 pm A Family Service  
with Children as the Focus



7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship  
with communion



All Are Welcome At Good Shepherd

We Worship a Loving God



I just wanted to thank everyone for helping me make the Yarn so successful, and guiding me. The kind words about my choice of formatting it to be lively fuels me to make each edition special. Thank you so much for your support! Keep the 3rd Wednesday of the month in mind as the deadline to send all Yarn articles to me at: [office@holy411.org](mailto:office@holy411.org). This will be a goal for all who submit content while helping to keep delivery on track for the first of the month. The Yarn is such a fun and creative way for us to unite and showcase all of our successes each month!

- Trista Canary



## DECEMBER TO JANUARY SCHEDULES

|         | Ushers:                            | Tellers:          | Lay Readers:   | Children's Time: |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Dec. 1  | Petnic, Workman                    | Bohns, Kent       | Delores Barr   | Chris Bohns      |
| Dec. 8  | Tich, McKemy, Morgan               | Pfoutz, Wagener   | Cindy PreVatte | Cindy PreVatte   |
| Dec. 15 | Douglas, Webster,<br>Shuttlesworth | Starke, Webster   | Kathy Young    | Delores Barr     |
| Dec. 22 | Maas, Wronowski                    | PreVatte, Workman | SungHee B.     | Edie burns       |
| Dec. 29 | Young, Goldberg,<br>Bohns          | Maas, Baranowski  | Vickie Maas    | Keith Roberts    |
| Jan. 5  | Petnic, Workman                    | Bohns, Kent       | Clay Maas      | Gail Wronowski   |

# DECEMBER 2019

- Sunday, 1** Adult Sunday School 9:30  
Worship - Advent of Hope 11:00  
Coffee 12:00  
1st Sunday Food Pantry
- Monday, 2**  
**Wednesday, 4** Little Caesar's orders must be in  
Children's Center-Open House 9:00-12:00  
Setting up the Christmas Tree 10:00  
Deacon's Meeting 6:15  
Choir 7:30
- Thursday, 5** Decorating the Christmas Tree & Crafting  
handouts for the Longest Night 10:00
- Sunday, 8** Adult Sunday School 9:30  
Worship - Advent of Peace 11:00  
Coffee 12:00  
Set up tables for Women's Christmas Party  
Decorating for Women's Christmas Party 4:30  
Women's Christmas Party! 6:00-8:30
- Monday, 9** Children's Committee Meeting 3:00  
**Wednesday, 11** Shepherd's Kid's 5:30  
Choir 7:30
- Thursday, 12** Women's Circle Bible Study 10:00-12:00  
Building Committee Meeting 1:00  
Session Meeting 7:00
- Sunday, 15** Adult Sunday School 9:30  
Worship - Advent of Joy 11:00  
Coffee 12:00  
Christmas Cantata @ Piney Grove United  
Methodist Church 2:00  
Pick up Little Caesar's Orders
- Monday, 16**  
**Wednesday, 18** **January YARN Deadline :)**  
Shepherd's Kid's 5:30  
Choir 7:30
- Saturday, 21** Service of the Longest Night 7:00  
**Sunday, 22** Adult Sunday School 9:30  
Worship - Advent of Love & Bring a Friend  
Sunday 11:00  
Good Shepherd Christmas Cantata 11:00  
Children's Center Open 6:00-6:00
- Monday, 23** **Office & Children's Center are Closed**  
**Tuesday, 24** Children's Service 4:00  
Traditional Candlelight Service 7:00
- Wednesday, 25** **Office & Children's Center are Closed**  
**Thursday, 26** Children's Center Open 8:00-6:00  
**Friday, 27** Children's Center Open 6:00-6:00  
**Tuesday, 31** Children's Center Open 6:00-4:00



# GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN'S CENTER

I am beyond proud to report that WE ARE NOW A LEVEL THREE IN EXCELS!!!!

It took a lot of hard work and effort, especially on the part of the teachers to get credentialed, but we DID IT!

For those who don't know, this is a quality rating scale for child care programs in Maryland. We have been at a level 1 for years (the certificates I just removed expired in 2016), which is great, but in Harford County 108 centers are at a Level 1 and 17 are at a level 3. We are now the 18<sup>th</sup> One center in Harford is at level 4 and twelve are at a Level 5. Level 5 is our next goal which will happen once we get accredited (which is a 2 year process I hope to start in 2020).

- Janelle Schmidt



## Children's Center Requests:



We are looking to for working Ipads that you may not want anymore and glue sticks!



# DECEMBER DATES TO CELEBRATE!

We would like to recognize this months important dates in the lives of our members

### 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 BIRTHDAY

*14*

*8 Eleanor Williams*

*Mary Margaret McClurg*

*10 Elaine Tich*

*Carl Phillips*

*11 Lou Cosner*

*16 Ellie Pfoutz*

*13 Jim Petnic*

*18 Wayne Douglas*

*20 Nancy Byrne*

*24 Jerry Tich*

*30 Christene Bohns*

