



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Joppa

"Changing Lives and Growing in God's Love"



- Saturday, 2** Decorating the Sanctuary at 9:00 am
- Sunday, 3** **Hope Sunday - Holy Communion Service 11 am**
Coffee Hour after Worship
Advent Devotional Booklets
- Wednesday, 6** **Joppatowne Leo & Cubs Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm**
- Thursday, 7** Deacons Meeting 6 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Sunday, 10** **Peace Sunday** Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour after Worship
- Thursday, 14** Women's & Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Session Meeting 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Friday, 15** **Live Nativity - Front Lawn 6-8 pm**
- Sunday, 17** **Joy Sunday** Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour after Worship
Caroling 1:00 pm
- Thursday, 21** **Longest Night Service 7:00 pm**
- Sunday, 24** **Love Sunday -** Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour after Worship
Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
- Monday, 25** **!!!MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**
- Tuesday, 26** **GSPC & GSCC CLOSED**
- Sunday, 31** **Lessons & Carols Service 11:00 am**
New Year's Resolutions
- January, 1** **!!!HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**
GSPC & GSCC CLOSED



*To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
 "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

Why was Gabriel so insistent in telling Mary that he was bringing good news? Maybe it was because Mary, being a very smart as well as very faith-filled young woman, would be able to see right away that Gabriel's message would bring her countless days of trials and grief. She would need to navigate the social conflict that her pregnancy would generate. She would need to help Joseph comprehend the incomprehensible. She would need to deal with her own doubts and second thoughts, and she would need to raise a child in a difficult and dangerous world. "Good news" might not be the phrase Mary would use for The Annunciation. But Mary received Gabriel's words with contemplation, devotion, and determination to fulfill God's purpose.

The church has designed the experience of Advent – the time of waiting for Jesus to arrive each year – so that we might return to share some of Mary's concerns once more, and recognize the price of that Good News in her life and in our own lives. I hope that this Advent will be an opportunity to hear that news as Mary did and to respond, each of us in our own way, with contemplation, devotion, and determination to fulfill God's purpose.

I wish you all a wonderful Advent and a blessed Christmas!

PEACE,

Pastor Kerry



SANCTUARY DECORATING

Saturday, December 2, 2023 @ 8:30 am

Coffee & donuts in the morning followed by our world famous pizza party lunch when finished! Plan on about 4hrs of fun & friendship. So far those that have signed up...

Clay & Vickie Maas, Greg & Kelly Donelson, Winsome LaComb, Rickeisha Williams, Cindy PreVatte, Kathy young, Ellie Williams, Gary & Jane Workman, Mike & Chris Bohns, and Delores Barr, as well as a few maybes from Bill Starke and Bobbie Funkhouser

...We'll see you there!!!



THE GOOD SHEPHERD FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPC/>

ONLINE WORSHIP @ THE SHEPHERD OF JOPPA YOUTUBE PAGE:


<https://www.youtube.com/@shepherdofjoppa5250/streams>


Share the links to our services with family and friends. When viewed, please click the **You Tube "Like" icon**. This gives us an idea of our viewership.

December 2023


A MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons and Worship Committee invite you to participate in the Advent activities below that will prepare us all for the coming of the Christ Child. A theme we're carrying out this Advent is to ask the question, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" The phrase "a weary world rejoices" echoes in the song "O Holy Night." Perhaps this year in particular, with so much war and violence, distrust and anger, the church has a real calling to show those around us how worshiping and following the Christ Child is our way of helping our weary world rejoice. Please join us in letting Christ's light shine this season.


Dec. 2  Decorating the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. with lunch provided. Clay Maas is the organizer.

Dec. 3  1st Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion Celebrated – **Hope Sunday**. Today we view "earth-colored" ornaments on our tree reminding us to rejoice, for God holds us in his arms and heart through all circumstances. You can write your idea on a dove today of how you, your family, and/or our church will help a weary world rejoice.

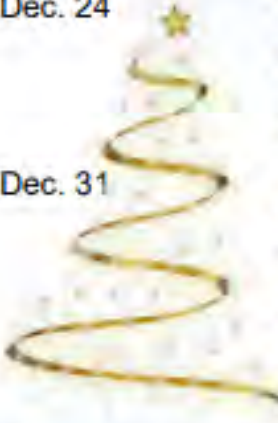
A special Advent Devotional Booklet will be distributed to each family today. The "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" theme is given consideration throughout this resource.

Dec. 10  2nd Sunday of Advent. Our doves will be added to the sanctuary tree today celebrating **Peace Sunday**. Live Nativity Characters meet after church for costume check and stage directions.

Dec. 15 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Live Nativity on the Front Lawn Live animals will be on hand, and we'll sing carols around the creche. It's a neighborhood event and a time when we can let our light shine.

Dec. 17  3rd Sunday of Advent – **Joy Sunday**. We'll go caroling at 1:00 p.m. and bring songs of joy to friends and members whom we miss.

Dec. 21 Longest Night Service at 7:00 p.m. If you can help with setting out and lighting candles, please let Bill Starke or Sue Thompson know.

Dec. 24  4th Sunday of Advent celebrated at 11:00 a.m. It is **Love Sunday**, and the choir will offer anthems throughout the worship service that reflect the mandate to love and share our faith.

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with candlelight.

Dec. 31 Lessons and Carols Service at 11:00 a.m.
Want to get rid of those extra cookies and cakes you accumulated this holiday season? Bring anything you want to share today. We're calling it "Cocoa and Cookies" (yes, we'll have coffee, too). Feel free to take a few treats of your choice home to enjoy and also enjoy a few, right on the spot after worship. New Year's resolutions might be on our mind today so if you are willing, write your resolution prior to and after worship, and we can post them on our bulletin board for fun and sharing.

These are just a few ways you can be involved during the upcoming Advent season. We would love to see friends and neighbors join us. Invite someone new to experience the season of light, love, and sharing.

The Deacons appreciate the congregation's generous participation in providing gifts for teenage girls in foster care through the Arrow Family Ministry of Harford County. We purchased \$1,200 worth of gifts to make a very happy Christmas for many teenagers. Good Shepherd really does help the "weary world rejoice" in so many ways!

December 2023

GSCC THANKSGIVING 2023

On Tuesday November 21st the Children's Center invited our families to join us in our second annual Family Thanksgiving.

Pastor Kerry helped the children perform a song of thanks and then led us in a blessing. Everyone shared food and made new connections with other GSCC families.

It was a wonderful event and everyone left with a smile!



The next meeting of the Lion's Cub/ Leos club will be on **Wednesday December 6th** at 6:30pm in the upper room.

We will be coloring pictures and making Christmas cards to deliver to nursing homes in the area.



All children over 5 are welcome to attend!

WILLIAMS' SPECIAL BLESSING!

Gabe and Rickeisha Williams would like to share their VERY SPECIAL blessing.



The Williams' will be welcoming their **1st child, a baby girl in March 2024**. They are very excited!

REDNERS RECEIPTS

We're still collecting them...please use your FREE Redners card when you shop & drop the receipts in the red box in the Narthex...thanks!

FOOD PANTRY

Please **do not** donate anymore Ramen Noodles!

Please leave donations on the cart and off the floor.



SANCTUARY UNDECORATING

Yes, you read that correctly...seems like we just decorated the sanctuary & now we're planning undecorating...how about Saturday 06 January 2024 at 8:30 AM...we'll post a sign up sheet shortly...



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts By: Olive Mahabir

In our third lesson, "A Bleeding woman Encounters Jesus", we examine the character of an unidentified woman and contemplated how her chronic illness affected her life. Having suffered twelve years of bleeding and social isolation because of cultural and religious restrictions of her time, after spending all her resources, this woman's determination, desperation and faith lead her to act on her own behalf.

The sacred encounter was unique in the fact that the woman did not plead with Jesus and she did not fall at his feet. Instead she was discreet and just barely touched the fringe of his robe. At the same time Jesus felt the healing power of the Holy Spirit leave his body. This was a new sensation that caused him to stop, pay attention and investigate the situation. Jesus called the woman to come out of the shadows. The woman's testimony lead Jesus to recognize her courage and faith as he welcomed the woman into God's family by calling her "daughter". (This is the only time in the New Testament when Jesus called a woman "daughter".) The author concluded that this story shows "God and humanity acting in harmony to effect transformation". We don't know what happened to her after this sacred encounter but we do know that both the woman and Jesus shared a special connection because of the movement of the Holy Spirit. We know that her life was changed because of this sacred encounter when she reached out to touch Jesus.

Never underestimate the power of touch. Just as our faces can be the visible image of Jesus to others, our actions as we greet one another by shaking hands, touching an arm, or giving a hug can be the touch of Jesus to others. As we follow the example of Jesus as he listened and responded to the needs of others, we too can be an agent of change.

During our discussion we recognized how women of faith and "agency" have reached out in compassion and determination to help support people seeking healing, justice, liberation and human dignity. Perhaps you can recognize some of these names of women who have used their power to deal with condition that existed: Frances Perkins, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ginny Morte, Rosalynn Clayer, Marsha Amini, Rebecca Dali, Laila and Asia Brown. **After discussion woman's health issues we decided to donate some money to help provide emergency sanitary products for use at GSPC.**

We were challenged to pray for people who have chronic health conditions and for our own health. Our intercessory prayers also include self advocacy groups such as Self-Development of People in the PC (USA).

Please join us on **Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Upper Room.** Remember to bring your lunch and prayer notebook. There is always room at our table and love in our hearts.

December 14, 2023 :

Lesson Four: Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Leaders: Jane Workman & Joan Pugh

Hostess: Jo White

Main Idea: Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith.

MARY KAYE'S NEW

Mary Kaye has a new landline phone number, her mobile number remains the same.
Home: 443-502 0173

CLAY MAAS' EMAIL DOWN

You *must* call or text for the time being @ 443-386-0600

Good Shepherd
Presbyterian Church

622 Joppa Farm Road
Joppa, MD 21091

Longest Night Service

December 21 is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. With lights on the lawn and candles in our sanctuary, we hope that glimpses of light might shine through the real darkness that exists in our world. For those who have empty places in their hearts and homes this Christmas season, Good Shepherd offers a "Longest Night" reflective, come-as-you-are service.

A weary world can rest. Join us if you need a quiet place in the rush of December, especially if you have experienced a loss.

7:00 pm

21

DECEMBER

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS

Make sure your Blessings are known!

Exciting events like travel, graduations, completed life goals, a new home, family addition, or any other successes you might want to share! Please send the story with some pictures to

Trista: Office@Holy411.org

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Take a look at this display from "All Saints Sunday"

Thank you Kady Howe for sharing this beautiful picture!



**Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
622 Joppa Farm Road**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6 - 8 pm

Live Nativity - Neighborhood Event

COFFEE HOUR TEAMS

WEEK #1

Delores Barr Kelly Donelson
Kathy Young ___(vacant)___

WEEK #2

Vivian Etchunjang Clay & Vickie Maas
Eleanor Williams Gary & Jane Work
 man

WEEK #3

Chris Bohns Monika M.
Bill Starke Norma Webster

WEEK #4

Edie Burns Pat Howe
Winsome LaCombe Ellie Pfoutz
 ___Vacant___

WEEK #5

Delores Barr Sue Thompson
Jim & Jeanette Petnic

(a/o NOV 2023)

December 2023



Stop by for pictures, wear your own costume and join the group, or just stop by to enjoy the beauty of the story and scene. Experience live animals, on-site Christmas Caroling, and this great neighborhood event.

Rain/Snow Date is Friday, December 22!



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Susan Luu; Rick Ciccotelli; Kathy Young's friend, Betty Lineberry; Marcie Jackson's friends, Nancy in England & Barb C., her family and medical team; Norma Webster's friend, Carol Kehring, her family & medical team; Allison Estep's father, Bob Aims; Theresa Manke & Richard Watson, their family & medical team; Chris Bohns' friends daughter, Ella, their family & medical team; Mary Kaye Kent, her family & medical team; and Trista & Rikku.

If you or someone you know has a need and you would like to submit a prayer request, please reach out to our prayer team at: gsprayers@juno.com

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, please contribute \$10 for each plant. They will be used to decorate the sanctuary until after Christmas, at which time you may take home your plant(s). Please send the donation to the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church with the following information:

Number of Flowers : _____

In memory of : _____

In honor of : _____

Your Name : _____

Orders are due by Monday, December 4th

December Birthday's to Celebrate

8 Eleanor Williams

10 Elaine Tich

11 Lou Cosner

13 Jim Petnic

14 Mary Margaret McClura

14 Carl Phillips

16 Ellie Pfutz

18 Wayne Douglas

20 Nancy Bryne

24 Jerry Tich

30 Christine Bohns

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

Kelly Donelson @
410-961-9275

