



# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Joppa

*"Changing Lives and Growing in God's Love"*



- Monday, 1 **!!!HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**  
**GSPC & GSCC CLOSED**
- Wednesday, 3 Lion Cub & Leos Meeting **Cancelled**
- Thursday, 4 Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm  
Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Sunday, 7 **Communion Worship 11:00 am**  
Coffee Hour After Worship
- Thursday, 11 Men's & Women's Bible Study 10:00 am  
Session Meeting 6:00 pm  
Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Friday, 12 **HCPS Half Day**
- Sunday, 14 Worship Service 11:00 am  
Coffee Hour After Worship
- Monday, 15 **HCPS Half Day**
- Wednesday, 17 February YARN Reminder
- Thursday, 18 Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Sunday, 14 Worship Service 11:00 am  
Coffee Hour After Worship
- Thursday, 25 Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Friday, 26 **HCPS Half Day**
- Sunday, 28 Worship Service 11:00 am  
Coffee Hour After Worship



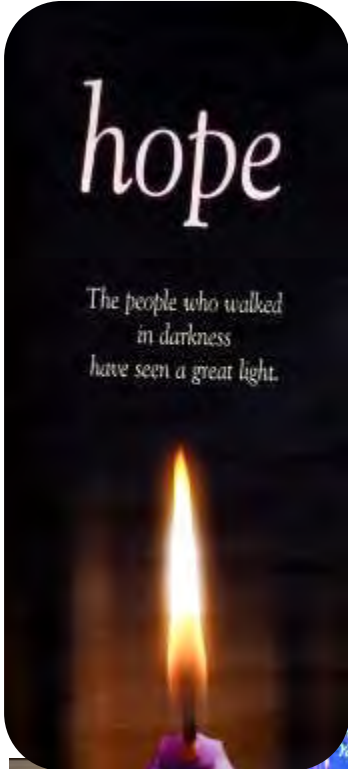


While I am away and traveling, I wanted to make sure to wish you all a Happy New Year!

PEACE, Pastor Kerry



## SANCTUARY DECORATING



**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.

# A CHRISTMAS BLESSING FROM GABE & RICKEISHA WILLIAMS

(Please read Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25)

## Jesus Is the Reason We Celebrate

Christmas! The most wonderful time of the year. It's also the busiest, stressful, and for some the gloomiest time of the year. It's the time of year when people decorate trees, and houses, people travel to spend time with loved ones or in some cases hibernate to avoid certain loved ones (if we're really honest). For others, it can be lonely and depressing. Unfortunately, some have even lost loved ones during this time of year. Others may have to spend time apart like those who serve in the military or serve in other clandestine means to help protect this country that the rest of us may never even know about. Christmas is the time when people exchange gifts, sing carols, and drink hot cocoa with marshmallows. Children write letters to Santa of all the things they hope to get on Christmas day.

Regardless of where, how, or whom you spend Christmas with this year, let's remember the REAL reason for the season. It's very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life; however, it's important for us to remember there's truly a reason to rejoice! Most people would agree there has been A LOT of transpiring events that have been quite disturbing and controversial that have occurred or are occurring in the world. As discouraging and disheartening as it is; we must remember that Jesus knew we would experience trials in this world,

*"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

- (John 16:33 NKJV).

Jesus experienced trouble, the disciples experienced trouble, the prophets experienced trouble, so why should we expect not to experience trouble? Of course, no one wants to experience trials but without trials how would we come to know the resurrection power of Jesus? In the bible, the Israelites experienced so much pain, sorrow, trouble, and bondage. Even when they were physically free from Egypt, they were still very spiritually bankrupt. How much more so for those of us today? We're no different than the Israelites- we too are easily led astray by our own desires and selfish ambitions. We too have once walked in darkness OR for some walking in the shadows. But praise be to God for His grace and mercy toward us that He sent His son Jesus, a light- into this world so we can be reconciled to Him (God)! Jesus who obediently, gladly and willingly laid down His life for us, even while were His enemies;

*17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

- (John 10:17-18).

Without Jesus there is no light, there is no hope, no peace, no reason to even live. We all know how hectic, stressful, and burdensome life can be. The years seem to go by faster, the world gets colder, people get angrier and meaner. Right is wrong and wrong is right. Nevertheless, we have a reason to REJOICE, a reason to CELEBRATE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. WE have the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ! The MOST PRECIOUS AND IMPORTANT gift anyone could ever receive to be grafted into the family of GOD! A GOD whose kingdom never ends, a kingdom where love, peace, joy, holiness, truth, and justice reigns.

So my dear brothers and sisters, regardless of where you are in life- would you take a moment to thank the Lord for the gift of JESUS? HE is the reason why we can have the strength to persevere in life. Because of JESUS we can have hope for another day. Because of JESUS we can literally have peace in our hearts and minds even though our circumstances and events in the world are chaotic.

Thank you Lord for the wonderful gift of salvation in Your, Son- Jesus. Hallelujah and Amen!

**JANUARY 2024**





## Christmas Poinsettias - 2023



Thank you to the following people who donated poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas season. Their names and special dedications are listed below.

Please pick up your poinsettias between Sunday, December 25 (following the service) and Sunday, January 1.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Anita Barrett (2)         | <b>In Memory of</b> Jesse, Louise & Otts   |
| Ron Stokes (1)            | <b>In Memory of</b> Pat Stokes & Jane Stokes   |
| Ellie Pfoutz (1)          | <b>In Memory of</b> Warren Pfoutz  |
| Kathy Young (2)           | <b>In Memory of</b> Andy Young & Marie Terry   |
| Jim & Jeanette Petnic (2) | <b>In Memory of</b> Our Parents  |
| Susan Thompson (2)        | <b>In Memory of</b> Jeanne Thompson – Mother<br>Ellen Thompson – Sister  |
| Clay & Vickie Maas (3)    | <b>In Memory of</b> Helen & Norbert Maas<br>Lola & Johnnie West<br>Phyllis Grumbine<br>Jeff West<br>Mike West  |
| Bob & Delores Barr (3)    | <b>In Memory of</b> Roy & Dorothy McDonald<br>Bob, Sr. & Esther Barr<br><b>In Honor of</b> Trista Canary   |
| Greg & Kelly Donelson (2) | <b>In Memory of</b> Genevieve Donelson<br><b>In Honor of</b> Kim Jomidad   |
| William Starke (6)        | <b>In Memory of</b> Thomas Onner Starke<br>James A. Starke<br>Rev. & Ms. Josiah Brockington<br><b>In Honor of</b> Rev. Slinkard<br>Edith Burns<br>Ms. Winnefred Miller |
| Mike & Chris Bohns (3)    | <b>In Memory of</b> John Bohns – Mike's Father<br>Audrey & Lawrence Creed – Chris' Parents<br><b>In Honor of</b> Ella Stout  |
| Dianna Miller (1)         | <b>In Memory of</b> Delores Miller – Mother  |



# THE CANARY'S BLESSINGS

Made especially for you by:  
The Art Department of  
Joppatowne High School 2023



## DOOR CONTEST

The Toddler/ Twos class taught by Ms. Lisa and Ms. Alyssa won the Christmas door decorating contest in both the official judging and the Facebook popular vote!

**Congratulations Toddler/Twos class!! You win two hours of paid time off!**



Rikku has been enrolled in the Joppatowne High School P-Tech CIS college program. This 10th grade year has been full of ups and downs, but I would like to share the blessings Rikku has worked so hard for:

- 1. The Principles List Honor Roll Award with a 4.2 GPA.**
  - 2. The above picture was chosen by the school faculty to be the 2023 postcard Joppatowne sends out. Rikku drew this!**
- Our Personalized version of this card says, "Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!"

*Fun fact, Rikku's name means Prosperity, Land, and Rich or Powerful in Japanese :)*

-Trista Canary (Proud Momma)

## 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!

**We were able to collect \$300.70 in 2023!**

## 2024 GIVING BOXES

Please remember to stop by the lobby and collect your 2024 giving boxes.

The numbers have changed, so please keep that in mind while locating your box.

# JANUARY 2024

## LION CUB & LEOS MEET



The January Meeting is **cancelled** for Wednesday, January 3rd.

We will be holding a meeting on **February 7th @ 6:30 pm** in the Upper Room where we will make birdfeeders to hang up in the community!

Lion Cubs are ages 5-12 y/o and the Leo's are 13-17 y/o. All are welcome to attend, and it is free to join!

# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

## Sacred Encounters:

### The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

#### **Lesson Four: Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus**

This lesson uses the familiar story in Luke about the sisters, Mary and Martha. In this lesson's **sacred encounter**, Martha asserts to Jesus that Mary is not helping with her "many tasks" and Jesus responds by praising Mary who has "chosen the better part." We are challenged to read this story with imagination and fresh eyes.

The interpretation that Martha's choice to take care of her "many tasks" is seen as less insightful than Mary's choice to sit at the feet of Jesus can be traced back to 200 CE and a Greek scholar named Origen. He emphasized that Mary **stands Highest** over Martha and brother, Lazarus by listening closely to Jesus.

As we take a second look at Jesus's relationship to Martha and her family, we see a truer picture of the scene. What was seen as condemnation, may well have been a kinder request to join in the important time of listening.

The **Main Idea** that our lesson teaches is that Jesus calls us to value the role of **each person** in the community of faith. **Both** Mary and Martha are serving an important role in the ministry of Jesus.

We continually see how Jesus uses women in his ministry and how he often subverted cultural norms.

A discussion about "caregivers" was also included in this lesson. Each member shared examples from their own experiences about caregivers and how we as individuals and as a congregation can reach out to these people. We added known caregivers to our prayer list for the month.

Please join us on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 10:00 am** in the Upper Room for **Lesson Five: A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus**. Remember to bring your lunch and prayer notebook. There is always room at our table and love in our hearts.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas season.



Please pick up your poinsettias to take home.

## 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!

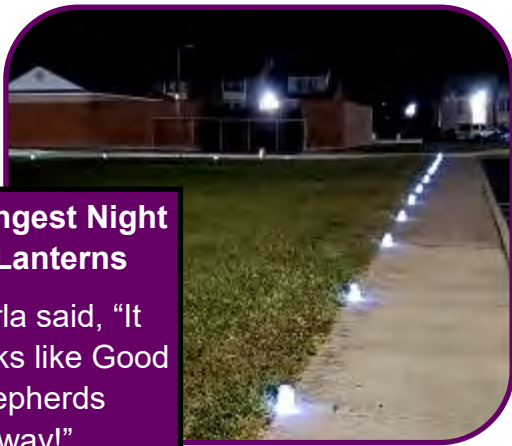
Please send the story with some pictures to Trista: [Office@Holy411.org](mailto:Office@Holy411.org)

## FOOD PANTRY

Please do not donate anymore Ramen Noodles!

Make sure to leave donations on the cart and off the floor.





### Longest Night Lanterns

Carla said, "It looks like Good Shepherds runway!"



**Christmas Eve Service**  
Picture thanks to Kathy Young's friend, Heather Mullis.



**Live Nativity**  
I (Sue Thompson) wanted to give a "shout out" to all of the cast, stage set builders, animal handlers, and behind-the-scenes helpers for making our Live Nativity program so inviting and beautiful.



Although we had a few bumps in the road leading up to the event, everything worked out so well in the end. Our costumes were wonderful, the animals were a big hit, our parents and costumers helped us get ready, and we ended the evening with great refreshments and many smiles.



We all agree – working together to make the Christmas Story come alive was memorable and a blessing. Thank you for taking time to join us and for doing everything you could to help a weary world rejoice.



**SUE THOMPSON ON BEHALF OF THE THE GOOD SHEPHERD LIVE NATIVITY RESOURCE TEAM**

**What was it that made your night special?**  
The carols we sang? The neighborhood turnout? The gifts that the magi presented? The joyful angel greetings? The beautiful manger backdrop? The all-age participants? The animals parading around, giving praise, too? The star shining overhead, along with the crescent moon?

# COFFEE HOUR

**"THANKS"** to everyone who is on a team. It is a labor of love. No one goes home hungry, not spiritually, not physically...we still have some openings on TEAM #1 & TEAM #4.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Trista's office.

The more the merrier, and if you can't commit to being on a team, think about staying to help clean-up...thank you! -Clay Maas

## WEEK #1

Delores Barr Kelly Donelson  
Kathy Young \_\_\_\_ (vacant) \_\_\_\_

## WEEK #3

Chris Bohns Monika M.  
Bill Starke Norma Webster

## WEEK #2

Vivian Etchunjang Clay & Vickie Maas  
Eleanor Williams Gary & Jane Workman

## WEEK #4

Edie Burns Pat Howe  
Winsome LaCombe Ellie Pfoutz  
\_\_\_\_ Vacant \_\_\_\_



## WEEK #5

Delores Barr Sue Thompson  
Jim & Jeanette Petnic

(a/o NOV 2023)



### A few reminders concerning coffee hour:

**#1.** Leftovers belong to the assigned team. Please don't make "to go" plates while congregation members are still eating. At the conclusion of coffee hour the assigned team can take home any leftovers or offer them to the congregation members.

**#2.** Any food returned to the fridge should be clearly marked so that it gets used properly...waste not, want not.

**#3.** It's that time of year when mice are coming in to stay warm. We have found mouse droppings on the counter tops, we all have to be mindful of that and the kitchen and Upper Room have to be cleaner than an operation room at the hospital. We're going to have to get some plastic containers for the plates, cups, napkins and utensils...leaving open items just sitting on the shelves isn't working.

**#4.** Please remember to take the trash to the dumpster and return the key to the key box...also remember to return the keys to the stairlift.

**#5.** If you notice we are running out of any of the supplied items (coffee, plates, cups, napkins, utensils, bowls) let Clay know. He'll see that they get ordered, but remember creamer and drinks are the responsibility of the assigned team.

**#6.** Last, but not least, any team at any time can cancel coffee hour. Maybe too many team members are sick, maybe you're all going on vacation, maybe it's a holiday weekend. Whatever it is you can cancel, just give us all a few weeks notice so we don't come to church hungry that day.



## SANCTUARY UNDECORATING

Yes, you read that correctly!

It seems like we just decorated the sanctuary & now we're planning undecorating. How about **Saturday 06 January 2024 at 8:30 AM.**

A sign up sheet is on the podium in the Sanctuary lobby.

**JANUARY 2024**





# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Joppa

*“Changing Lives and Growing in God’s Love”*

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

Norma Webster’s friends, Lotta Lakubowski, and Stan & his family; Marcie Jackson’s friend, Sue; Stephanie Herd’s grandson, The Late Trevor, his family, friends & journey home; Ella, her family & medical team; Sue Thompson, her family & medical team; Kathy Young’s friend, Michelle Comer, her family & medical team; Mary Kaye Kent’s friends, Becky Purkey her family & medical team, and The Late Joe Towns, his family & journey home; Ellie Pfoutz’s grandson, Sam Mazza, his family & medical team; Winifred Miller’s grandson, Sean Jones, his family & medical team, and prayers for justice to brought to the shooter, 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](mailto:gsprayers@juno.com)

## ARROW MISSION

“This year, we were able to "Adopt for Christmas" 25 Foster Teens living in a local group home. Each girl is getting three bags of goodies personalized for them based on their size, likes, and favorite colors, etc.

The bags include a new pair of tennis shoes, a hoodie, leggings, biker shorts, a book, bea pillow case, a beanie, gloves, a water bottle, a squishmallow, items with their initial, a blanket, snacks, candy jar, coffee drinks, freeze dried candy, 31 zipper pouch, two gift cards, fun pens and pencils, stickers, body marker, scentsy products, fuzzy socks, a cosmetic bag filled with makeup, body sprays and lotions, plus so much more...

**Special thank you to: Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Joppa (Christene Bohns), who donated over \$1,400 in gifts as a congregation.”** -Diana Elizabeth (Facebook)



## January Birthday’s to Celebrate

2 Erin Knapp

14 Jeff Withrow

21 Norma Webster

8 Delores Barr

23 John Knapp

9 Matthew Ciccotelli

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

Kelly Donelson @  
410-961-9275

### JANUARY 2024