



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Joppa

"Changing Lives and Growing in God's Love"



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Thursday, 1

Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm

Sunday, 4

Communion Worship 11:00 am
Annual Congregational Meeting
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, 7

Lion Cub & Leos Meeting 6:30 - 7:75 pm
Community Birdhouse Project

Thursday, 8

Men's & Women's Bible Study 10:00 am
Session Meeting 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm

Saturday, 10

Sharing Table Event

Sunday, 11

Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour After Worship

Wednesday, 14

 **!!!VALENTINES DAY!!!**
March YARN Reminder

Thursday, 15

Choir Practice 7:30 pm

Friday, 16

HCPS Half Day

Sunday, 18

Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour After Worship

Monday, 19

HCPS Closed
President's Day

Thursday, 22

Choir Practice 7:30 pm

Sunday, 25

Worship Service 11:00 am
Coffee Hour After Worship

Thursday, 29

Choir Practice 7:30 pm





Every year about this time, as winter continues to drive forward with its biting cold and debilitating weather events, the church begins its preparations for the gift of Salvation. The birth of the Christ Child was the first scene of the great drama of redemption that Isaiah had spoken of centuries before.

Through the recent weeks of the season of Epiphany, the adult Jesus has begun to gather his disciples and friends, and to reveal to them the great mysteries that will unfold. Through the centuries to our own time, we have grown to revere these first of the faithful, so we are a little surprised when they respond to Jesus with disbelief and consternation, and seldom with affirmation. They were as dumbfounded as we are at the prospect and process of Jesus' coming sacrifice.

We feel inadequate for the task of faith, so the Church has set aside 40 days as winter melts into spring for us to use to prepare our hearts and minds. Great things are coming and we don't want them to pass us by. During Lent we relive the final few weeks of Jesus ministry and sense the depths of his love for us, as he sets his eyes on the Cross.

I invite you to allow your spirits to be caught up in this unfolding drama and God's great covenant with each one of us that unites us with saints in heaven and on earth. I pray that your Lenten journey will be holy and profound.

PEACE,

Pastor Kerry



LION CUB & LEOS MEETING

The next meeting of the Lion Cubs & Leos club
February 7, 2024 @ 6:30 pm in the Upper Room

Children will be Making bird feeders to hang up in their 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!



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.

FEBRUARY 2024

GOD IS LOVE

It feels like the year just started and already we are heading into February. Most people participate in Valentine's day, buying flowers and chocolates for loved ones or have a nice, romantic dinner. We say, "I love you" to friends and family, etc. Love is a big deal. People may not want to admit it but the truth is we all want to be loved. This is why so many people sing songs, write books, and make movies about love. However, have you ever stopped to really think about what the word really means or what it means to YOU?

To some people love is their family, a hidden addiction, money, their career, sports, a toxic relationship or person. As humans, a lot of times we have a distorted perception of love. This distorted view is sometimes due to our background and experiences whether positive or negative. Now if you were to ask Google, love is both a noun and a verb. It is defined as an "intense feeling of deep affection or a great interest and pleasure in something."

However, the bible defines love in one word, GOD. John makes it very plain, when he writes,

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them (1 John 4:16 NIV)

Therefore, to know God is to know love. Knowing God is not just about singing hymns, doing good deeds, attending bible studies and church services like it is something to do on your check list. Knowing God, is having a relationship with Him. For us to know God is to spend time reading and studying His Word so we can learn about His character. When we have a relationship with Him, we witness His love in our lives and in the lives of others. We gain more wisdom and instruction on how He wants us to live.

True love does not come from our own strength-it comes from the Lord. John makes this plain when he states,

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:8-10 NIV) (see also John 3:15)

Here, we see that it is impossible to truly love without having a relationship with God. And how can we have a relationship with God the Father? Through His Son, Jesus.

We must also remember that love is not just an emotion, it is a choice, and an action. John encourages us to go further and not just love with our words

"...but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18)

Why is this important? Because as children of God this is what sets us apart from the world. Jesus said so in His statement,

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35)

Moreover, we are commanded to love not only our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ but also our enemies. Jesus explicitly says,

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44)

Honestly, loving one's enemies is a very difficult task- one that we cannot do on our own no matter how hard we try. However, in Christ we are new creatures (2 Corinth. 5:17) and with His help we can have the strength to love and forgive those who hurt us. When we are in Christ, we are to follow His examples. Again, we love only because God first loved us. Therefore, as the Lord's children we are to follow His example. Most importantly, we must remember that we, too, were once enemies of God, yet He still sent His Son, Jesus, to take on our sins so we can be reconciled to Him. "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will an one die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

"...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8 NIV)

How amazing is that? Even while we were still sinners, God never stopped loving us.

My dear brothers and sisters, every day is a day to celebrate love. In a world that is getting colder and more hostile, people need to see through us that love does still exist. However, this love can only come from having a relationship with the Lord, for He is the one who can teach us best how to love. Lastly, for those who are looking for love, look to God first because He is love.



Black History
HEROES



**OVERCOMING
Fear of the E-Word**

Presentations, lunch,
& group discussions about
Evangelism and the Church
Gathering at 9:30 am
February 3, 2024

THRIVING
CONGREGATIONS



Christ Our King
Presbyterian Church
10 Lexington Road
Bel Air, MD 21014

Pre-register online
<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/evangelism-forum/>

- Join in person or Via Zoom!
- Registration and coffee at 9:30 am
- Presentations in the sanctuary at 10:00 am
- Lunch at noon.
- Group discussions 1:00-3:00 pm

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



MS. DANA

POSITIVE ATTITUDE
SHOWS INITIATIVE
CREATIVE FLEXIBLE



Valentine Puzzle

Grab your sweetheart and solve the puzzle!

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ADMIRER
 CUPID
 FRIEND
 HUGS
 PINK
 SWEET

CANDY
 DINNER
 GIFT
 KINDNESS
 RED
 SWEETHEART

CARD
 FEBRUARY
 GREETING
 KISSES
 ROMANTIC
 VALENTINE

CARING
 FLOWERS
 HAPPY
 LOVE
 ROSES

CHOCOLATE
 FOURTEENTH
 HEART
 MINE
 SENTIMENTAL





Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Joppa

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REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

Sue Thompson, her family & medical team; Norma Webster's friend, Stan's son, Mike; Mary Kaye Kent, her family & medical team; Kathy Young's friend, Michelle Comer, her family & medical team; The Late George (Sonny) Robertson, his wife Cathy, their daughters & grandchildren; and Edith Burns' friend, Dot's friend Barb & Barb's sister-in-law, Sue.



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

A FEW NOTES FROM CLAY

DECORATING & UNDECORATING THE SANCTUARY - Just wanted to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who participated in these events! Did anyone else notice that it took almost 4 (four) hours to DECORATE the Sanctuary on the 1st Saturday in December...but, only 45 (forty-five) minutes to UNDECORATE the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday in January and we still managed to squeeze in Coffee Hour on Sunday?!? I'm thinking and I've been told that "we" used to undecorate on the 1st Sunday in January but somehow we've gotten away from that. Maybe we should return to UNDECORATING after church on the 1st Sunday in January. Everyone's there, no extra trip required and we still get to enjoy Coffee Hour!

COFFEE HOUR - Still looking for volunteers...the sign up sheet is on the board outside of Trista's office...it's only one Sunday a month and you're gonna' have fun!

GSPC DIRECTORY JANUARY 2024 EDITION - By now EVERYONE should have received the updated church Directory...some people have hard copies & some have e-mail copies...please review yours for updates, errors and changes. If you have any or if you haven't received your updated version please contact Clay, preferably via e-mail @ clayton.maas@yahoo.com



February Birthday's to Celebrate

4 Trista Canary

19 Daris Bultena

20 Brianna Luu

10 David Burns

22 Valerie Davis

10 Linda Link

22 Gary Workman



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