



Newsletter

December 2019

**Glorifying God by Making, Maturing, and
Mobilizing Enthusiastic Disciples for Jesus Christ**

PASTOR'S REFLECTION...

It is hard to believe that another year, 2019, is almost at a close. The month of December is often full of looking back. Looking back at the good and bad, what was accomplished and what was left undone. We often begin to look ahead and imagine what the blank slate of a new year can be.

I think this is a healthy practice in our personal lives and in the life of the church. As a church we did a lot of good things this year. We impacted lives, connected with people, shared the gospel, raised money, and had fun. And hopefully we were challenged and grew as followers of Christ.

Yet I am sure we know that there are still things that were left undone, and we are perhaps not where we want to be as a church. We have not reached as many lives as we would have hoped.

Our worship attendance has not grown, and we wish we could have a greater impact on the community.

We have spent a lot of time and energy investing in our building, in our physical presence this past year. Those were needed important investments. But I have challenged council, and I will challenge all of us to think about ways we can invest in growing the church.

Church is not just a physical location. It is not just a building. The Church, the kingdom of God is the people knitted together to form the body of Christ. Investing in a physical presence, a building, is only part of what we are called to do.

And so, I have identified three areas that I suggest become areas of focus for 2020. We at Bethany want to invest in ... 1) Community 2) Welcome and 3) Relationships.

How do we reach out to the community around us? Do we really know who they are? What are we doing that is effective? What do we need to change and adapt?

When a new person enters our church, do they feel welcomed? Can they find the important things? Before people come here, are we effectively connecting with them on our social media platforms or our website?

Once someone has come and is attending how do we build relationships? Is our worship meaningful to those we wish to connect with? Do we have places for people to connect and feel a part of our community?

Hopefully none of these questions seem completely new. I think they are things that you have heard me say before. However, if we really want to grow. If we want to see new things happening in this community, we must be willing to honestly explore them and go where the Spirit leads us. Please be in prayer. Please offer ideas. Please ask questions. And please stay tuned for more information and conversation.

DECEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday December 1, 2019- Advent I – Romans 13:11-14 (Communion)

Sunday December 8, 2019- Advent II- Romans 15:4-13

Sunday December 15, 2019- Advent III- Guest Preacher- Rev. Tom Kinter*

Sunday December 22, 2019- Advent IV- Guest Preacher- Dave Carpenter (Sunbeam Choir)*

Sunday December 29, 2019- Matthew 2:13-23

*Liz and Pastor Jared will be out of town December 15-22, celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us on Tuesday December 24 @ 7pm for our Christmas Eve Service. All are welcome to attend. Invite friends to join us as we reflect on the coming of Christ. Hope to see you there.

SUNBEAM CHOIR

All children and youth are invited to join the Sunbeam choir as it practices each Wednesday, they meet downstairs and evening from 5-5:30. They perform the third Sunday of the month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

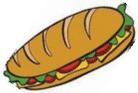
Caring Cupboard Sunday December 8th. Needed items for the Caring Cupboard are French green beans, canned carrots, boxed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes peas, hamburger helper, onions, cocoa, tea, and coffee. And, as always, they can use feminine hygiene products, diapers, tissues and paper towels.



Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due December 11th with pick-up on December 19th.

The order form is on the Information Table in the Gathering Room.

All proceeds will be going toward the flat roof.



Ad Council will be meeting Monday, December 9th @ 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

You are invited to help decorate our church for Christmas by contributing red poinsettias in honor or in loving memory of your loved ones. The cost this year is \$9.25 and the deadline is Sunday, December 8. The order forms are in the bulletin and on the information table.

LOYAL WORKERS...

The Loyal Workers want to thank everyone who helped make the bazaar a success. Their profit for the bazaar was \$2422.00. \$2000.00 was given to the Flat Roof Fund.

The Loyal Workers have their Hat and Mitten Tree up thru December 15. Please help us to collect hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. The donations will be given to the Ronald Mc Donald House and are much appreciated.

FLOWER CHART...

December 1 - Sandy Pillsbury
December 8 - Bev & George Bell
December 15 – Open
December 22 - Poinsettias
December 29 - Open

The Flower Chart is in the vestibule on the Railroad St. side of the church.
Sign up for your favorite Sunday to sponsor flowers for our church.

WORSHIP LEADERS...

Greeters/Ushers: Larry & Joan Strait and Richard & Susan Lasher

Acolyte: Cade Barnhouse

Scripture Readers:

December 1: Pastor Stoltzfus
December 8: Pastor Stoltzfus
December 15: Ed Kaylor
December 22: Susan Knipe
December 29: Pastor Stoltzfus

Sound System Operators:

December 1: Don Brubaker
December 8: Seth Schell
December 15: Barry Smith
December 22: Dick Lasher
December 24: Don Brubaker
December 29: Seth Schell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 – W. Michael Peiffer	14 – Samantha Patrick
2 – Michael Scipioni	16 – Charles Hallman
4 – Luke Scipioni	19 – Vicki Smith
5 - Michael Long	26 – Miranda Schell
7 – Chad Schell	29 - Nathan Berkheiser
10 - Kelly Shuey	29 – Vicki Wright
13 – Mary Carl	30 – Tim Laraia



ANNIVERSARIES

David & Karen Finney – December 30



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