



Newsletter

December 2018

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

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Here we are again. Another holiday season. It seems to come so fast every year. If you work in the retail world like I do, it came a few months ago. But here in the church things are a bit different. Christmas is still almost a month away. There is a journey to be had. Preparations to make.

Each year with the four Sundays that lead up to Christmas we slow down and reflect and mark the season of Advent. We do not rush to Christmas, to the gift giving, to the busyness of all that must get done. We slow down and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. There is always a temptation to rush to Christmas, to rush to Christ, yet Advent has lessons for us.

Take some time, slow down, and prepare for Christ. Listen to the lesson that Advent might have for us.

DECEMBER WORSHIP

Advent Series: Prepare the Way

Sunday December 2, 2018- "Stand" Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

Sunday December 9, 2018- "Refine" Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6

Sunday December 16, 2018- "Do" Zephaniah 3:14:20 and Luke 3:7-18

Sunday December 23, 2018- "Welcome" Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve- Monday December 24, 2018- "Arrive" Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

Sunday December 30, 2018- Clifford Flick preaching.

(Pastor Jared and Liz will be leading a retreat at Pocono Plateau)

PRACTICING PRESENCE

"The Lord's Table is about presence...Ultimately it's a practice that shapes a group of people to be present to God's presence in Christ around the table...Then in the process we are able to connect with the other people [and] our lives are then reordered socially by his presence."

- David E. Fitch "Seven Practices for the Church on Mission" p.5

Some of my most meaningful worship experiences have been around the Lord's Table. I can remember as a child being fascinated by what was going on. However, growing up in a believer's baptism tradition, I could not participate. Yet still the practice drew my attention.

Our first Sunday at Rise, a United Methodist Church plant in Harrisonburg VA, I can remember the scene as we celebrated our first Communion together as church. A bit of chaos, but a deep hunger to experience Christ.

Communion is a means of Grace by which we experience God's love for us. Christ is present with us at the Table. We are nourished and challenged. It points beyond us to God's mighty acts of salvation.

We are in constant need of this. We are all broken. We fail and mess up. We need to come back to the table and experience God's Grace. So, starting in December we will be celebrating communion on a monthly basis. Each first Sunday we will come together at the Table as part of our worship. A chance to be nourished as we seek to make, mature, and mobilizing disciples for Jesus Christ.

We will mix the style a bit. Sometimes doing it as we always do it with ushers bringing the bread and cup to the congregation in the pew. Other times we will do it by intinction, where the congregation comes front to receive from a common loaf of bread and a common cup. I know this may be a bit different, a bit uncomfortable, but I encourage you to try it.

Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to sit down and talk with anyone about this or anything else going on in the church. Thanks.

-Pastor Jared

Commission on the Way Forward

General Conference 2019 is less than 100 days away. Please continue to keep the church, delegates, bishops, and other denominational leaders in your prayers.

Below are the delegates from Eastern PA Annual Conference:

Lay- Judy Ehninger, Clarita Krall, Krystl Johnson, Jane Bonner

Clergy- Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Rev. Jeff Raffauf, Rev. Joseph Dipaolo, Rev. Lydia Munoz

Any questions, please see Pastor Jared.

Get Social With Us

You may not be on these platforms, but many people are. We need to go where the people are and sometimes that is as simple as social media. If you are on social media, make sure to follow us.



@BethanyUMCPalmyra



@bethanyPAumc



@bethanyumcpalmyra

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caring Cupboard Sunday is December 9th. All donations of toiletries and non-perishable food is greatly appreciated.

Ad Council meeting is December 10th @ 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due December 12 with pick up on December 20 between 10:30-11:30 AM. All proceeds from the sub sale go towards the front door fund.

The monies collected up to November 18, for our Front Door Fund are:
\$75.00-Sub sale and individual donations-\$100.00 totaling \$155.00 for November with a Grand Total of \$2348.02.

LOYAL WORKERS

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped with the bazaar. We welcomed a new feature, Attic Treasures, which we hope to continue. We had something for everyone.

Our Hat and Mitten Tree is in the foyer outside the Overflow Room. Please help us to collect hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. The donations will be given to the Ronald McDonald House and is much appreciated. The deadline for all donations is Sunday, December 16.

Thank You!

FLOWER CHART

December 2 – Sandy Pillsbury
December 9 – Bev & George Bell
December 16 – open
December 23 – Poinsettias
December 30 - open

Anyone interested in sponsoring Alter Flowers, sign the flower chart that is on the Railroad St. side of the church or call the church office Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9-11AM - 717 838-9041

WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters/Ushers: Lloyd & Lois Grumbein and Richard and Sue Lasher

Acolyte: Olivia Basham

Scripture Readers:

DECEMBER 2: Pastor Stoltzfus
DECEMBER 9: Barry Smith
DECEMBER 16: Pastor Stoltzfus
DECEMBER 23: Sue Ellen Keith

DECEMBER 30:

Sound System Operators:

DECEMBER 2: Dick Lasher
DECEMBER 9: Don Brubaker
DECEMBER 16: Seth Schell
DECEMBER 23: Barry Smith
DECEMBER 24: Dick Lasher
DECEMBER 30: Don Brubaker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 – W. Michael Peiffer
2 – Michael Scipioni
4 – Luke Scipioni
5 – Michael Long
7 – Chad Schell
10 – Kelly Shuey
13 – Mary Carl

14 – Samantha Patrick
16 – Charles Hallman
19 – Vicki Smith
26 – Miranda Schell
29 – Nathan Berkheiser
29 – Vicki Wright
30 – Tim Laraia



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to:
David & Karen Finney – December 30



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Please help to decorate our church for Christmas by contributing red poinsettias in honor of in in loving memory of your loved ones. Fill out the form and put it in an envelope with your money, put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Sunday December 9th.

Forms will, also, be in the bulletin and on the table in the Gathering Room.



POINSETTIAS

You are invited to help decorate our church for Christmas by contributing red poinsettias in honor or in loving memory of your loved ones. Please fill out this form, and place it in an envelope with \$9.00, put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Sunday, December 9.

Your Name(s) _____



In Honor of _____



In Loving Memory of _____



No. of poinsettias _____ x \$9.00=\$ _____



