

The Good News

January 2020

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

Happy New Year, Friends!

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and is at least kind of ready for 2020. I can say that 2019 was an eventful year in my own life for many reasons. There was much about it that brought me great joy, much that brought me my own share of grief and struggle, and much that gave me hope for the future. I imagine that you also have 2019 experiences that fall into many categories.

Through it all, I'm doing my best to focus on gratitude - gratitude for all of these experiences; for the ways that moments of celebration lit a spark in my spirit; for the valuable lessons and wisdom that I learned walking through difficult days; for the wave of tiredness that always comes after a busy but fulfilling week; for the million ways that I saw God's love at work and active in the lives and landscapes of our church, community, and state. I will take some time over these opening weeks of the year to sit in silence and reflect on the totality of my experience of 2019, and I encourage you to do the same. Sometimes we miss God's activity in our life simply because we neglect slowing down and reflecting. May a pause be your prayer as you enter the new year.

I want to share with you a prayer practice that you might use - some prayer prompting questions to help you reflect on your year that was and embrace the year that is to come, and yet already here.

Find a comfortable place to sit in silence, and reflect on the following questions:

- *What experiences from 2019 stand out for you?*
- *What experiences from 2019 brought you the most joy?*
- *What experiences from 2019 brought you the most suffering & grief?*
- *What is one thing from 2019 that you experienced to be unhealthy, and you'd like to leave behind?*
- *What is one thing you left undone in 2019 that you want to be sure to do in 2020?*
- *Where did you feel God to be most present with you during the last year?*
- *How did your faith grow over the last year? What helped it to grow?*
- *How is the you of January 2020 different than the you of January 2019?*

Take time to review your life over the past year, month by month, naming the most meaningful memories and experiences you had. Express gratitude to God for each of these experiences. Ask Christ to make God's love known in you at every opportunity during the coming year.

I hope you have a blessed and beautiful 2020, and I look forward to experiencing this year together!

Peace,
Zac

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January 12
January 19
January 26

Celebrating 2019!
MLK Day: Reflecting on the Gospel MLK Preached
The Bible: Who? What? When? Why? How?

Rev. Zac Morton
Rev. Zac Morton
Rev. Zac Morton

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: MOVIE NIGHT - JANUARY 17

The Nurture & Learning Committee is hosting a family movie night at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, at the church. All families are invited to join us, or you are welcome to drop your children off and enjoy a date night or time to yourself.

SESSION REPORT

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2019. We discussed a number of items and upcoming plans for the holiday season. Highlights and action items from the meeting are as follows:

- Received a positive review from Circle of Friends' use of our building to serve 2 meals per month to the homeless downtown population. They served December 7 & 8, and will continue serving dinner the first Saturday and Sunday of each month.
- Helped house a young couple with children by assisting with their security deposit in early December.
- Began making plans to highlight the church's new membership as a More Light Presbyterian Congregation. More Light is a national organization of LGBTQ affirming churches in our denomination.
- Approved the Endowment Grant for 2020 to the Garden Team Ministry. \$3,000 is designated to expand our church's Garden Ministry to provide fresh produce for the food insecure.
- Approved the use of \$70,000+ of funds from the estate of Paul Atkins to pay off the last debts from Harless Center, which frees \$9,000+ per year in the church budget and will save the church over \$5,000 in interest.
- Approved monies to pursue the next steps of a church energy audit, to make our church more energy efficient.
- **Set the 2020 Church Annual Meeting for after worship on Sunday, January 26.** There will be a luncheon following the meeting.

The next Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 19, at 6:30 p.m.** Session meetings are open to any member who would like to observe a meeting. One of the major projects the Session will undertake this year is to begin a visioning process to discern ministry priorities, values, and goals for the church over the next 5-10 years. Minutes of Session meetings and financial information are always available to church members. Contact John Bolt (Clerk of Session) or Johnetta in the church office.

BIBLE & BURRITOS AND BIBLE WORKSHOP RESUME

Our Tuesday Bible studies, Bible & Burritos (7:00 p.m. at Black Bear, Evansdale) and Bible Workshop (11:00 a.m. in Room 3) will resume on January 21.

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 26

In January, we will begin a new sermon series, "The Bible: Who? What? When? Why? How?" Even though we use the Bible a lot these days, there is still much that a lot of us don't know. Learning what the Bible is, how to use and read it well, and the best ways to apply it to modern issues is a constant process. In this series, we will explore these five simple questions around the Bible:

- *Who wrote the Bible?*
 - *What exactly is the Bible and what does it contain?*
 - *When was the Bible written and why does that matter?*
 - *Why is the Bible still relevant?*
 - *How should we use and read the Bible?*
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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please stay for a few minutes after worship on Sunday, January 26, for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Deacons will host a luncheon after the meeting. We encourage all members to attend.

CHURCH SKI DAY

We are organizing a church ski day to Hidden Valley Ski Resort on Saturday, February 8. A church-wide trip gives us discounted lift tickets, rentals, and the opportunity to sign up for a beginner's group lesson. All ages are welcome. Lift hours are 9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. Sign up on the church website, or by e-mailing pastorzm@gmail.com. Prices are as follows:

Lift Ticket- \$46

Equipment Rental (Ski or Snowboard)- \$28

Lesson- \$22

CHURCH VOLUNTEER LIST

At request of Session, during the month of January, we are working to develop a comprehensive list of ALL volunteer opportunities that exist in the life of the church. We are doing this for two reasons: (1) To see the incredible amount of work and effort that we all put in to make the life of our church vibrant and meaningful, and (2) to help new members and friends plug into the various ministries and activities in the life of our church.

We aim to complete this list by Friday, January 31, so please take some time this month to coordinate with ministries, activities you are involved in and share it with us. You can e-mail volunteer lists to pastorzm@gmail.com.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01	Justin Weber	12	Finn Weber	21	Chris Mullett
03	Rosemary Fitzgerald	13	Lorna Phillips	23	Jamie Perdue
04	Kevin Larkin	14	Mary Heironimus	24	Rocco LaSala
05	Stephanie Burtner	14	Ruth Donaldson	24	Kristen Solorio
06	Louise Shahan	15	Molly Hall	28	John Garlow
07	Chuck Mullett	15	Debbie Chase	29	Leah Klinke
10	Jacob Mullett	16	Scarlet Mebane	31	Shirley Schreiber
10	Owen Zeiders	18	Ray Patterson		
12	Patrick Ryan	19	Suzanne Glock		
12	Glenn Taylor	21	Cara Zundell		

SESSION

John Bolt (Clerk of Session), David Burtner, Donna Gerber, Noel Hoffman, Gertraud Irwin, Beth Madison, Barry McMillan, Lee Mullett, Cathy Samuel, Susan Shumaker, Lucas Tatham, Justin Weber

DEACONS

Jan Benders, Karen Cassidy, Brenda Ely, John Garlow, Cynthia Griffin, Nikki Hoffman, Sara Loughney, Chris McClelland, Diana Scott Beattie, Trey Smith-Tatham, Donna Weems, Diane Williams

STAFF

Rev. Zac Morton, *Pastor*

Johnetta Velickoff, *Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Portaro, *PCDC Director*

Ken Godwin, *Music Director*

Kimberly Chaffee, *Secretary*

Youngju Lee, *Accompanist/Organist*

Reggie Underwood, *Custodian, Sunday Sexton*

Janine Arnold & Teanna Branch, *Nursery Attendants*

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Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.