

The Good News

December 2018

A NOTE FROM REV. ZAC

Greetings Friends,

Advent and Christmas seasons are here! I'm grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate this first Christmas season together. This is an especially busy time for many of us, so I want to encourage each us - including myself - to find some opportunities to slow down and reflect on the goodness that surrounds us this time of year.

This year has been emotionally and spiritually taxing for many of us, and taking a moment to enjoy the peace and grace of God in the midst of feeling frantic and drained can be life-giving. So here is one small way that I encourage you to experience God's presence in a special way (and I'll be doing this, too).

Every time you see a Christmas tree ornament, think of the ways that God's goodness has decorated your life over the past year.

Perhaps there was a time when you felt God especially close to you. Recall a fond memory that you created. Express gratitude for a new friend that you made or a relationship that was healed. Remember answered prayers. Think of the ways you grew or healed or helped another person. Think of how other people helped and provided for you. Remember a time when a loved one made you laugh - even if you lost that person over the past year.

Every time you see a tree ornament, just take 10 seconds and count the ways God has decorated your life with goodness, beauty, grace, peace, and love. Perhaps this will be a good excuse to leave your tree up a little longer this year - it will provide more opportunities to count the good in your life.

We are also going to try something new this season. Many members and friends of our congregation have experienced loss and hardship over the past year, and celebrating the holidays without having loved ones by our sides can be especially difficult. In the midst of all the pressure to feel holiday cheer, the feeling of loss can seem much more heavy to carry through the month of December. Therefore, we will hold a service that we will call **Heavy Christmas on Monday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome, and you might especially want to join if grief is hovering around you this Christmas season. God gives us hope and strength in the form of one another, and so we will come together to find blessing in our mourning.

I hope that this season will bring you a lot of joy and hope. I know that I could use a lot more of that, and if we trust in God to provide it, then I know we will find it in heaps when we look for it together. Merry Christmas to you, and Happy Holidays to all our friends in the Morgantown community! May you have a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

Peace,
Zac

HELP DECORATE BEV'S MITTEN TREE

Every year, our church family decorates a mitten tree, and the donated items are distributed to PCDC, our pancake breakfast guests, The Shack, St. Ursula's, and several elementary schools. One of the most enthusiastic contributors to the mitten tree project was Bev Shumaker, who always enjoyed finding the cutest hats, scarves, and mittens to place on the tree. Appropriately, Bev's maiden name was Mitten. What better way to honor Bev's memory than to cover this year's tree with colorful warm, winter items?

Beginning Sunday, December 2, and continuing throughout the Advent season, our church family will have the opportunity to decorate the bare Christmas tree in the parlor with mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, underwear, and socks in both children and adult sizes. In years past, we've even had some sweaters and winter coats donated. Adult sizes are always needed to share with our pancake breakfast guests. PCDC can also make use of diapers placed under the tree. We want to cover every branch of this tree to make it a colorful decoration that demonstrates the love we share for our community.

Celebrate this holiday season by sharing something with others. Each Sunday, bring a different item to decorate the tree. See how beautiful the tree can become when everyone brings something to provide some necessary warmth for others! This is an excellent project for parents to share with their children by talking about why you are purchasing these items and letting the kids help select items they would like to give. Let them hang the items on the tree when you bring them in.

Together, we can honor Bev's memory by participating in her special project. What a wonderful way to remember her at this time of year!

DONATIONS NEEDED

A patron of our community breakfast, Will Vaughn, has been able to secure a new apartment for the first time in many years! Many of you have donated items- THANK YOU! Here are a few more items that would be helpful:

- Small appliances: microwave, toaster, etc.
- Cleaning supplies/tools: broom, duster, etc.
- Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, etc.

Please contact Zac to drop off items or arrange a pick-up. Will is scheduled to move into his apartment the second week of November. You are welcome to bring donations anytime.

BIBLE & BURRITOS AND PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Bible & Burritos and Pastor's Bible Workshop will meet for the last time this season on **Tuesday, December 4**. We will break for the holidays and resume meetings on **Tuesday, January 15**.

ATTENTION PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will meet at noon on Monday, December 3, in room 3. Bring a bag lunch and join the group for fellowship and Bible study. Everyone is welcome to attend!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Please remember that Salvation Army stockings are to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 2. It is helpful if you print "infant," "boy," or "girl" on the Santa stocking topper plus an approximate age range. Thank you so much for helping with this community mission.

First Presbyterian Women's **Holiday Sale**

*handcrafted wreaths and holiday decor
made with the freshest, most fragrant local evergreens*

modern HOMESTEAD

FRESH EVERGREEN WREATHS



fraser fir with white pine accents



EVERGREEN SWAGS



fraser fir with white pine accents, bow & pinecones*



GRAVE MEMORIALS



fraser fir with white pine accents, bow & pinecones

ORDER FORM

DEADLINE TO ORDER:
Thursday, November 29, 2018

PICK-UP DATES:
SUNDAY, December 2, 2017

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

WREATHS	SIZE	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small	16-18"	\$30.00	X	=
Medium	28-30"	\$40.00	X	=
All-Weather Bow - Red		\$ 7.00	X	=
SWAGS	One Size	\$22.00	X	=
MEMORIALS	One Size	\$42.00	X	=

* ribbon color subject to change.

ORDER TOTAL _____

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas will be here before you know it! Our Christmas worship schedule this year is as follows:

Sunday, December 2

11:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent (The Prophecy Candle), communion

Sunday, December 9

11:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent (The Bethlehem Candle), Rev. Dr. Shelly Barrick-Parsons preaching
2:00 p.m. Christmas concert by MACglee (FPC)

Sunday, December 16

11:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent (The Angel Candle) , Christmas cantata

Sunday, December 23

11:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent (The Shepherds' Candle)

Monday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family-friendly Christmas Eve service

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service with communion

Sunday, December 30

11:00 a.m. Christmas Unplugged (Dress comfortably for a casual service and hymn-sing.)

SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNITY POLICY

At our October meeting, Session developed a policy that would best serve our Sunday morning pancake breakfast patrons and our Sunday morning activities. Our new policy is:

Starting at 9:30 a.m., Rooms 2, 3, and the Library in the Westminster building will be designated for Sunday School. Only Sunday school leaders and participants should be in those spaces beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Room 1 will be designated as a "warming room." Community breakfast patrons will be welcome to use this room to charge phones, enjoy coffee, and keep warm as the colder winter months approach.

Starting at 10:45 a.m., we will close the Westminster building and encourage anyone in the building to join us for worship and sit in the sanctuary or parlor during the service.

We also want to remind the congregation that you are welcome to get to know our community breakfast patrons. You can come have breakfast with them, visit the warming room, invite them to join Sunday school or worship, and/or bring supplies or refreshments if you feel led to do so. **We encourage you to refrain from giving out cash**, and to direct individuals to a list of service providers available in Room 1.

NEW WEBSITE!

We have relaunched our website, www.firstpresmorgantown.org, with a brand new format and look! Check out our website and make sure to use it for a calendar of events, a ministry directory, a list of mission partners, and much, much more!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - DECEMBER 16

During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the adult choir, orchestra, youth, and children will present "Candles & Carols," an Advent journey celebrating the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Please join us for this very special holiday production!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL COOKIES 'N MORE SALE

The sale will take place on Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Proceeds from the cookie sale, treasure table, wreath sales, and bazaar items will go to PW's mission fund that supports international concerns, community efforts, and church projects. You can help in the following ways: baking and buying cookies, adding to the treasure table, buying bazaar items, buying a wreath, and helping set up and work the event. Sign-up sheets are in the parlor for bakers and volunteers. Please join Presbyterian Women in support of its many projects.

DEACONS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

One of the duties of the Deacons is to help coordinate transportation needs such as getting to church, medical appointments, or the grocery store. If you are in need of transportation assistance, you can call Brenda Ely (304-296-1406) or contact the office. Alternatively, if you wish to volunteer to provide transportation, you can update your Breeze account at <https://fpcmorgantown.breezechms.com> or contact the office.

WORSHIP FEEDBACK SURVEY

The Worship Committee and Pastor Zac invite you all to take our Worship Feedback Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY7DHWQ>). The survey includes a few questions that will help us understand how worship is working for you and help us plan future worship. Thank you for your involvement in the faith life of our church!

FPC'S BREEZE ACCOUNT

As you may know, our church directory is available online through Breeze. If you haven't already set up your account, please contact Johnetta or Kim at the office. They will be glad to send you an email containing a link to the website (<https://fpcmorgantown.breezechms.com/login>) and instructions for setting up a new account. It's free and easy to use!

HOLIDAY CONCERT - DECEMBER 9

The MACglee choral group will present its annual holiday concert at FPC at 2:00 p.m. MACglee is sponsored by the Mon Arts Center and directed by our very own Ken Godwin. The concert is free and will feature over 40 singers and instrumentalists, as well as a secret group of guest performers. Everyone is encouraged to usher in the holiday season by attending this special community event. We'll see you there!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Trellis Smith	13	Chris Martin	21	Bradley Gerber
03	Cathy Samuel	14	Ann Warren	24	Violet Mebane
04	Catherine Moore	15	Eli Taylor	25	Joseph Evans
05	Leann Long	16	Darryl White	27	Austin Fisher
08	Victoria Cooke	18	Sam Leizear	28	Zach Cooke
08	Dana Grandon	19	Zachary Carpenter	28	Kelly Zundell
08	Rhowyn Saffel	19	Ann Conner	30	Rae Jean Sielen
09	Taylor Cooke	19	Debora Palmer		
12	Rebecca Mebane	19	Judy Werner		

SESSION

John Bolt, David Burtner, Harold Forbes, Donna Gerber, Gertraud Irwin, Beth Madison, Barry McMillan, Lee Mullett, Chet Parsons, Cathy Samuel, Justin Weber, Lucas Tatham (Clerk of Session)

DEACONS

Jan Benders, Karen Cassidy, Debbie Chase, Brenda Ely, Sarah English, John Garlow, Deborah Harris, Scott Lyon, Chris McClelland, Bonnie McMillan, Carole Mooney, Ann Warren, Donna Weems, Judy Werner, Diane Williams

STAFF

Rev. Zac Morton, *Pastor*

Johnetta Velickoff, *Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Portaro, *PCDC Director*

Ken Godwin, *Music Director*

Kimberly Chaffee, *Secretary*

Giuliana Contreras, *Organist*

Reggie Underwood, *Custodian, Sunday Sexton*

Janine Arnold & Teanna Branch, *Nursery Attendants*

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Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.