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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Sigh) I do have to get my head in gear that this message is the first of a New Year. I am writing this on December 18th so my head is very much focused on Christmas. A major part of that is with all the special things at church and the other part is our plans for Christmas Day and the 10 days following. Jeri and I will be leaving Christmas morning and driving to visit with my brother in Spring Hill, FL. Since his wife died this year, he will be alone for the holidays. We will spend a few days with him and then we will do one of my bucket list items. I have wanted to see Disney World all decked out for Christmas so we will go to Disney on the 29th and be there for New Year's. We are not planning to be part of the crowd come midnight on the 31st, but we will usher in the New Year at one of our favorite places.

Generally with the arrival of New Year's Day, we talk about what we hope we can change for the New Year. I will share with you that with the blessings that Jeri and I received in 2017, we look forward to sharing many of those blessings in years to come.

The biggest blessing I think about is Blymire's church. I am honored, and humbled, to be on the journey of faith with this church. The ministry of this church is amazing! And, to be affirmed by your desire for me to continue as your pastor touched my heart and my life beyond what words can adequately express! I praise God every day for leading my faith journey to the junction with this church's faith journey! And, I hope that together we accomplish all that God needs for us to do!

The next blessing we experienced is Jeri's retirement. This was not in the plans initially, but when it came about, we both agree that the hand of God was leading us. Jeri worked for the county parks for thirty-eight years and he loved every minute of it! But, he affirms, it was time to step away because he is now able to focus on things he dreamed of doing. He truly made a smooth transition to retirement. And, he has already done some geology projects he had in the back of his mind as well as he is able to lounge around until late morning. As a friend of ours used to say.... "Since I am retired I don't do anything.... and that doesn't start until 10:30." Financially Jeri's retirement has been a blessing for us as well and we have already put some of that blessing to use. And we affirm that we are enthusiastic about where we



January

feel God is directing us to share the blessings we have received. This holiday season we have been able to reach out to help others in a way we had not been able to do since we got married. So, praise be to God, we are truly thankful for ALL that God has sent our way and we are humbled to be able to send those blessings on to others.

I do recognize that while our year was a joyous year, there are others whose year may have been a challenge and a struggle. I know loved ones in our faith family and beyond have faced health issues, financial and employment struggles, the passing of loved ones, etc. I do pray that for all, this new year will bring a brighter outlook. That, no matter how much this last year brought a challenge to life, I pray that with the change of the calendar, a change to better days may be experienced by all.

I know Jeri has always said he never makes a New Year's resolution because then he doesn't worry about breaking it. I look at resolutions this way—if I resolve to do something today, but I end up breaking that resolution, tomorrow is another day. So, try again! I hope this is something we can do together as we RESOLVE to daily listen to God's voice leading us so that we can and will do all that God needs us to do. This sounds like a pretty good resolution to me! And, even if I break this resolution by mid-morning today, God will forgive me and will say "TRY AGAIN!"

May GOD BLESS your New Year with LOVE, HEALTH, HAPPINESS and JOY!

God Bless! With love,

Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in JANUARY

January 7 - Epiphany 1

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "The Baptism of Jesus"

January 14 - Epiphany 2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Could God Be Calling Me?"

January 21- Epiphany 3

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "Called to Ministry"

January 28 - Epiphany 4

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "What Is This?"

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for JANUARY

GREETERS:

January 7 - Nancy Taylor
January 14 - Donna Sleeth
January 21 - Gwen & Chet Wise
January 28 - Joel Frey

GIFT COLLECTORS:

January 7 - Tarry Ness
January 14 - Tim & Donna Sleeth
January 21 - Curt & Ginny Weber
January 28 - David & Susan McDowell

LAY READERS:

January 7 - Barb Adams
January 14 - Cindie McKinsey
January 21 - Jeri Jones
January 28 - Sonja Ness

ACOLYTES:

January 7 - Steph Frey
January 14 - Ed & Judy Bishop
January 21 - Carol Barnhart
January 28 - Susan McDowell

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

January 7 - To be announced
January 14 - To be announced
January 21 - To be announced
January 28 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

January 7 - Terry Doll
January 14 - Ed Adams
January 21 - Chase Matthews
January 28 - Wyatt Myers

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

January 7 - Joel Frey
January 14 - Greg Ness
January 21 - Greg Ness
January 28 - Sterling Boyd

CAMERA OPERATORS:

January 7 - Greg Ness
January 14 - John Sterling
January 21 - Todd Miller
January 28 - Terry Doll

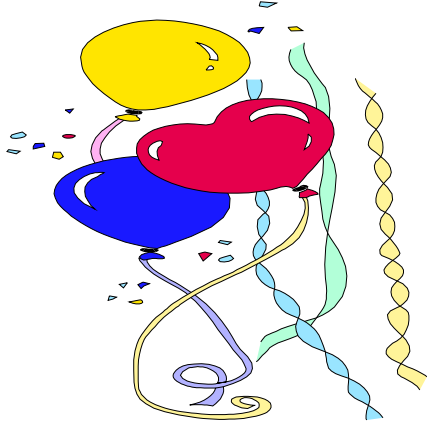
VIDEO OPERATORS:

January 7 - Sydney Brown
January 14 - Jeri Jones
January 21 - Judy Bishop
January 28 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: January 15

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You on
Your
Birthday!*

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Jared Miller | 20. | Rick Sipe |
| | Todd Miller | 21. | Ed Adams |
| | Derek Troop | | Gwen Wise |
| 2. | Burl Gingerich | 26. | Cindie McKinsey |
| | Chet Wise | | Renne Myers |
| 3. | Keith Markey | | |
| | Delores Noll | | |
| 4. | Tracey Dilling | | |
| | John Sterling | | |
| 7. | Nicholas Innerst | | |
| | Morgan Keller | | |
| 8. | Nancy Myers | | |
| 9. | Paige Barley | | |
| 11. | Damion Albright | | |
| | Steven Knickel | | |
| 12. | Tina Leader | | |
| 13. | Hannah Leader | | |
| 14. | Benjamin Barley | | |
| | John Herbst | | |
| 16. | Brooks Barley | | |
| 18. | Silvia Knickel | | |
| 19. | Danielle Marshall | | |

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402
717-718-3615

Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Anita Spahr
36 West Main Street
Dallastown, PA 17313
244-7392



**Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military**

A1C Ness, Brandon
98950 East Harmony Lane
Tucson, AZ 85748



... to the **Sisters of Service** and everyone else who helped to prepare food, set up and clean up at our annual Church Christmas party.

... to the **Sisters of Service** for organizing this year's Cookie Walk. Thanks also to everyone who helped setup and sell cookies, as well as those who donated home-made cookies and those who bought them.

... to **everyone who donated items** for Helping Hands for the Homeless and to **Barb Marshall** for distributing them.

... to **everyone who helped decorate** both the main church and the Red Brick Chapel for our Christmas services.

... to **Nelson Leader, Brenda Kerchner and our choir members** for presenting the beautiful Christmas cantata.



There will be a Town Meeting held on Sunday, January 7, immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2018. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



You may pick up your 2018 offering envelopes from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. If you did not use envelopes in 2017, but would like them for 2018, please let Wanda know.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2017	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$13,069.96	\$14,011.17	\$503.43	\$181.75	\$354.55	\$850.00
February	\$10,907.93	\$5,404.56	\$3.09	\$211.14	\$0.29	\$0.00
March	\$11,915.46	\$13,831.65	\$1,153.48	\$423.97	\$0.32	\$251.56
April	\$9,693.50	\$9,902.05	\$528.42	\$293.05	\$40.30	\$376.81
May	\$11,958.80	\$8,938.88	\$1,003.57	\$100.58	\$0.27	\$947.00
June	\$8,679.72	\$13,211.83	\$353.54	\$284.53	\$0.19	\$2,515.00
July	\$11,233.38	\$8,194.28	\$3.64	\$144.18	\$6.56	\$2,121.58
August	\$10,150.20	\$8,481.16	\$3.62	\$124.75	\$100.39	\$1,965.00
September	\$8,703.07	\$13,161.93	\$3.47	\$374.09	\$0.29	\$2,556.58
October	\$12,988.46	\$10,561.04	\$3.56	\$115.95	\$800.22	\$1,965.00
November	\$9,788.25	\$8,247.13	\$3.43	\$101.09	\$0.18	\$935.00
December						
Total	\$119,088.73	\$113,945.68	\$3,563.25	\$2,355.08	\$1,303.56	\$14,483.56

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ December 1, 2017

\$11,829.53

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ December 1, 2017

(Includes \$47,060.21 Endowment)

\$74,870.24

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ December 1, 2017 (Includes \$760,367.67 CD's,
Trusts, UCC Foundation—transferred \$9000 from UCC Foundation to B B & T Bank)

\$764,327.64

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2017

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 397.38
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 84.27	\$ 431.65
February			\$ 116.61	\$ 548.26
March			\$ 71.58	\$ 619.84
April	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 115.87	\$ 710.71
May	3	\$ 75.00	\$ 20.02	\$ 655.73
June	3	\$ 75.00	\$ 139.95	\$ 720.68
July			\$ 109.37	\$ 830.05
August	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 55.02	\$ 810.07
September	2	\$ 625.00	\$ 55.40	\$ 240.47
October	3	\$ 100.00	\$ 61.21	\$ 201.68
November	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 90.41	\$ 217.09
December				
Total	17	\$ 1100.00	\$ 919.71	



MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. We will be discussing potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. **REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.**



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting every Wednesday in January from 6:30-8:00PM.



HOMWOOD HOMES NEEDS YOU



If you can do simple sewing, Homewood Homes needs you! The skilled care facility needs soaker pads and laundry bags for the residents. The directions for each are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. There is a box of material located in the fellowship hall— flannel for the soaker pads and cotton for the laundry bags. Any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thank you for supporting this project.



BOOK CLUB

Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, January 9, and Tuesday, January 23, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. Our book will be chosen at the January 9th meeting. New members are always welcome to join us.



TEENS will hold their regular meeting on Sunday, January 7, at 6:30 PM at the church.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us each Wednesday morning at 9:15 for a weekly Bible study. Topics vary depending on the interest of the group. We have taken a break for the holidays, but will resume on January 10. This study is not limited to members of our church, so invite any friends or relatives who might be interested to come as well.

BOOK SALE

Our annual Book Fair is returning the middle of February, so now's the time to start collecting the books you've read and bring them to church. They may be placed in boxes in the Gathering Room by the windows. The Book Fair will begin on February 18 and run through the middle of March.



In addition to books, you may also donate DVD's and CD's. PLEASE do not donate magazines or musty-smelling books. We're looking forward to a great book fair.



You are invited to come to our Crafty Chicks gathering on Sunday, January 28, from 1:00-5:00 PM. Please bring any needlework, scrapbooking or other craft project that you are working on. We will have a good time finishing those projects and fellowshiping with friends.

There will not be any special class offered in January, but watch your bulletins and newsletters for upcoming offerings.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

January 2018



Christmas Project

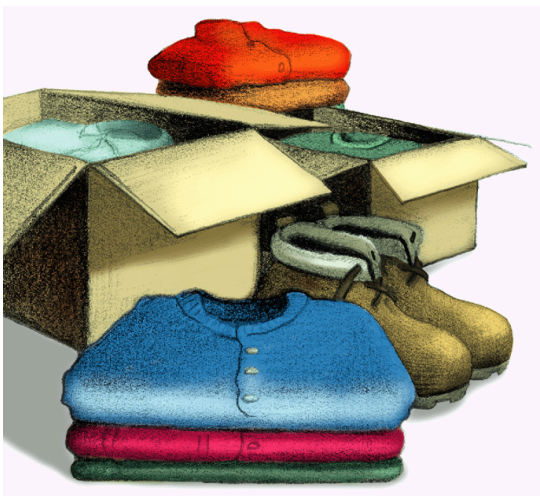
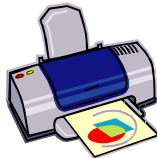
We would again like to thank everyone who bought a Christmas gift for one of the children at Emmanuel's Closet.

We gave gifts to a total of 109 children and teens. This may have been the only gift some of those children received for Christmas. They were distributed on December 9th and 16th.

In addition to the gifts, in December we also gave out extra bags of holiday food and gift cards for perishable food to our clients to help provide them with a good Christmas dinner. Thank you to everyone who donated food or extra funds to help buy them.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet cart in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."



E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Broth
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Coffee/Tea
Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now accepting fall and winter clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



THANKS FOR CARING!



January 2018

Healing Hearts Inspirations

Snowflakes are beautiful
So pure and white
Like God's children
No two are alike

Don't forget, there will
be no meetings of
Healing Hearts in
February.

I RESOLVE

"As a new year begins many people engage in the old habit of making new resolutions for the new year, make this habit a tool to pledge more than good intentions, but to set goals and life-guidelines that will make you a better human being, not merely somebody thinner or richer. Make goals to increase your tolerance, your compassion and openness towards your fellow human beings. Use this opportunity to renew your vows, your commitments, even your whole life. Make good use of your resolutions by making them count. This special date can become a starting point for a wonderful new attitude to life - something that will improve you from the inside-out - and, as a result make a difference in the lives of those around you.



SHORT SERMONS ON LIFE

Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said; "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile." Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said. Today, I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics. I suddenly realized that, I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again. Today, in Kenya, I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked very skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."



A CLOAK OF LOVE

Do you know anyone who is wounded and afraid?

Do you know anyone who is guilty and embarrassed?

Do you know anyone who needs a cloak of love?

"Love covers a multitude of sins," the scripture

says in 1 Peter 4:8. Love doesn't expose. It doesn't

gossip. If love says anything, love speaks words of defense. Words of kindness. Words of protection. Do you know anyone who could use some protection? Of course you do. Then give some. Pay a gas bill for a struggling elderly couple. Promise your kids that, God being your helper, they'll never know a hungry day or a homeless night.

Tell your husband that you'd do it all over again and invite him on a honeymoon. Make sure your divorced friends are invited to your parties. Do you know anyone who needs a cloak of love? Then, give it.

Max Lucado

"Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same."

Francesca Reigler

May you grow still enough to hear the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of winter, so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within. May you grow still enough to hear the trickling of water seeping into the ground, so that your soul may be softened and healed, and guided in its flow. May you grow still enough to hear the splintering of starlight in the winter sky and the roar at earth's fiery core. May you grow still enough to hear the stir of a single snowflake in the air, so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.



Brother David Steindl-Rast

MAKE THE MOST OF THE NEW YEAR!

With our year recently drawing to a close, it can be very easy to see life as a succession of years rather than a succession of days. If we lose our vision of how great days can be if we make them so, we can lose our ability to make each moment special.

These moments become much, much richer if we experience them through the filter of gratitude. We make our own moments and our own days by the way we approach them, and if the seed of thankfulness is in our hearts, our experiences will be much richer.

We all are given a great gift every single day that we have to experience the magic and wonder, the potential and possibility, of this wonderful world in which we live. We have opportunity after opportunity to make each day a very special one, yet we so often get "caught up" in all that's going on in our lives that we neglect our opportunities to get the most out of each moment, to make each day the special experience that it can be.

Love, gratitude, and peace. What better elements can we take with us into each day as we approach life anew? From which better starting point can we begin each day, each moment, each new chapter in our lives? We've been given all that we need to actually thrive in this life, and if we can stop taking all these gifts for granted, then we can make our lives truly rich, indeed.

With the new year, we can look ahead to a succession of moments, and each moment we can decide how to approach life. Each moment we can decide what we're going to do and how we're going to act. It isn't an entire year in which we will make our lives what they are a year from now--it's a series of many, many moments that will help to define the directions in which we

PROMISE YOURSELF

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel like there is something special in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

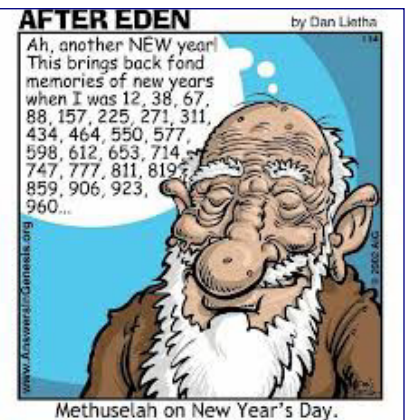
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living person you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

In an increasingly uncertain and uncomfortable world, it helps to know that there are still soft blankets and warm mugs and kind friends and good people — so many really good-hearted people who want the future to be better. If nothing else, take hope in that.

Nanea Hoffman





Revelations for January from “Bly Mire” Mouse

BLY’S HEALING HUMOR — (borrowed from Tarry Ness) Why is Peter Pan always flying? He NEVERLANDS! (I just love this joke because it NEVER GETS OLD!) I saw Tarry’s post on face book and I chuckled!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! I guess you, like Mire and myself, find it hard to believe that we are turning the page of another year! I certainly hope that 2018 finds us all with more joy in life, more love among friends and family, and a brighter future (and not only because we have switched to the LED bulbs!) Mire put these new bulbs in our living room lights and it is like the sun is shining even at 10:00 at night!

As is typical, our church was a bee-hive of activity with all the holiday events. We kicked off the month with our Christmas Party and, as always, this was a FUN time with lots of GREAT food! We also saw a cool film followed by a visit from the big man himself! The kids all had a great time! (even the ones whose calendar has some mileage on it!)

We also give a shout out to everyone who helped with decorating the church — both “phase one and phase two.” KUDOS to everyone who helped with the cookie walk! We had lots of helpers from those who did set up, tray filling and COOKIE BAKING!!!! SUPER JOB everyone!

I was looking forward to attending the school chorus and string ensemble concert, but unfortunately it was cancelled because of snow. I have told our little ones I want them to learn to play a stringed instrument—not just the plastic guitar handed down from pappy! I was hoping they could listen to the students and be inspired.

With our love!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!





NEW YEAR'S NOISE- MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV