

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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December 2018
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News of Bethany

2018 Advent Study - *Down to Earth: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight* by Mike Slaughter

Nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary. Mike Slaughter says it's enough to confound the mind and make the heart contrite. This 4-week Advent study opens up God's Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything. *Down to Earth*, a book and DVD based study, starts on Wednesday, November 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Copies of the book are available from Rev. Holmes following worship on Sunday morning, or weekdays in the Church Office. Plan now to join us for what will be a spiritually uplifting and insightful

journey through the Season of Advent.



al, *God Lifts the Lowly*, are now available for all members of the Bethany Family. Copies of this beautiful devotional can be picked-up from the Ushers or from the tables in the Narthex or the Welcome Center. May this wonder-filled devotional guide you through the days of Advent toward the stable in Bethlehem.

Mission Statement:
Bethany Presbyterian Church is a church making an impact on the lives of all people through the love of Jesus Christ.

God Lifts the Lowly:

An Advent devotional based on Mary's Song of Praise

Copies of the *Presbyterians Today* 2018 Advent Devotional,

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Bethany News & Notes

Special Dates

in December 2018

1 Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 2

2 Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 9

3 Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16

First Day of Winter

Friday, December 21

4 Sunday of Advent/

Sunday, December 23



KEEP SEEKING HIM

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31



Once again it's time to put up the giving tree. This year we are again assisting residents of Conestoga View. These are individuals who most likely would not receive a gift at the Holidays without our contributions. We also have chosen to provide gifts to a family from La Iglesia de Resurreccion.

As usual we will have tags on the Christmas tree with gift ideas. Please watch for the tree to appear and help "un-decorate" it by choosing a tag and supplying a gift. By doing so you are truly sharing God's love in this community. **Gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 16.** Please be sure to label your gifts for either Conestoga View or La Iglesia de Resurreccion.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Looking for gift ideas for the person who has everything . Copies of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are on the literature display in the C.E. corridor. Gift suggestions include ways to help feed the hungry, comfort the brokenhearted, and share our faith with young and old, while letting your gift recipient know of your thoughtfulness in their name.



PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG *stories of engagement*

From Pastor Kent's Desk

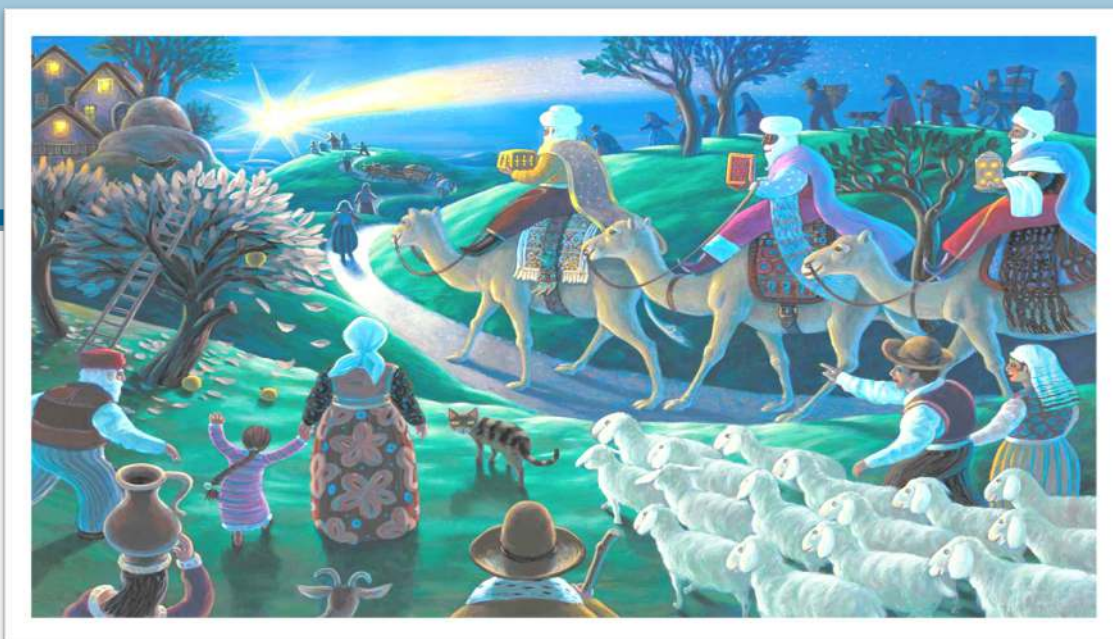
The Season of Advent falls in the most hectic, busy, and frantic time of the year! December stillness turns into a mad dash toward the Christmas holiday, with little or no thought given to preparing hearts and minds for the event itself. It seems none of us are immune to the seductive nature of the commodification of the season, no matter how hard we try. It just is!

That's why it's so important for us to be "intentional" in our celebration of the Season of Advent. It requires spiritual discipline and a willingness to forego some of the commercial trappings of the season. The enticements are seductive for even the most disciplined among us. Try as we might, we fall into the trap! Don't get me wrong – I'm as much of a Christmas junkie as anyone else. I love the lights, the music, and the glitter, too. It's just that I've tried to hold the most egregious manifestations of the season at bay. I have my limits!

As I said above, the Season of Advent should, at its core, be a time of preparing our hearts and minds for the Christmas event itself. I believe God draws close to earth during this season, making ready, once again, to present God's self to the world in the form of a baby. The incarnation is a mystery, a holy mystery, beyond the scope of our imaginations. The Creator of the Cosmos "tenting" with humankind is heady stuff. It requires an enormous "leap of faith." But we make the leap, year after year as we celebrate the Holy Family's journey to the Manger at Bethlehem. We stand with awe as we join countless millions of other citizens of the world gathered there, too, all celebrating the miracle of the birth.

I invite you, then, to join me on the journey to Bethlehem as we wait, watch, and listen for the angelic messengers to deliver their extraordinary announcement to a weary world. Believe me – it's worth the wait!

Grace & Peace, *Kent*



Betty Gehman
Homestead Village,
1800 Village Circle
Lancaster, Pa. 17603

Agnes Taylor
65 Mill Pond Dr.
Lancaster PA 17603

Homebound of Bethany

Adeline Henderson
The Glen Room 310
635 Willow Valley Square
Lancaster, Pa. 17602

Helen Cumpston
Mennonite Home
202B Jackson Run
Lancaster, Pa. 17601



4th Annual Advent Luncheon

On Sunday, December 2, Bethany will hold its Annual Advent Luncheon immediately following Worship, which **begins at 11am that day**. Members are asked to bring either a salad, vegetable, or dessert to serve eight. The main entree will be turkey. Beverages will be provided by The Presbyterian Women. Items for the luncheon may be brought to the kitchen on Sunday before Worship. Donegal Hall will be open on Saturday, December 1, so that the tables may be decorated by individuals or families. Mark your calendars and join us for this time of festive food and fellowship as we celebrate the Advent Season.

WINTER PRAYER REQUESTS

Agnes Taylor
Jo Fleckenstein
Polly Snyder



December Birthdays

12/12	Derek Martin	12/26	Anne Trach
12/19	Beverly Birk	12/27	Betty Gehman
12/22	Robert Rine	12/27	Robert Walker
12/25	Douglas Smith	12/30	Kelly Rine



December

WORSHIP

December 2, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m. - First Sunday in Advent

The Message: "Wait, Watch, Listen" Scripture: Luke 21:25-36 Preaching: Rev. Holmes
4th Annual Advent Luncheon Following Worship

December 9, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. - Second Sunday in Advent

"In the Stillness: Carols for Piano" A Musical Meditation for Advent and Christmas
Pianist: Rev. Holmes

December 16, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. - Third Sunday in Advent

Choral Music for the Seasons of Advent & Christmas
Presented by the Chancel Choir Conductor: Derek Martin

December 23, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preaching: The Rev. Daniel Erdman

December 24, 2018 @ 8:00 p.m. - Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Eve

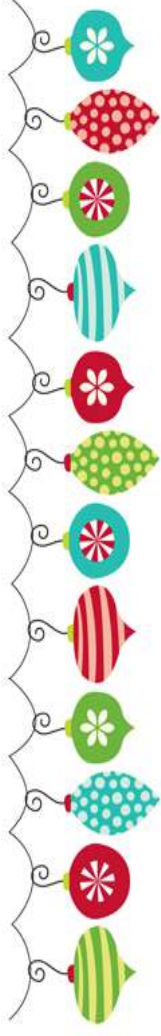
"Candlelight & Carols: A Celebration of Christ's Birth"
The Message: "This Endless Night" Scripture: Luke 2:1-20
Celebration of The Lord's Supper






December 30, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m. - First Sunday of Christmas

The Message: "In His Father's House" Scripture: Luke 2:41-52
Preaching: Rev. Holmes

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Greeters	Diane Ashba	Susie Paxson	Eva Lauer	Jim Grossman	Michelle Atwater
Fellowship	Advent Luncheon	Sylvia Doyle	Eva Lauer	Jim Grossman	Michelle Atwater
Ushers	Joyce Richards Eva Lauer	Brian & Diane Ashba	Bob & Jean Schwartz	Larry & Sylvia Doyle	Doug & Maurine Smith
Liturgists	Judy Maier	David Schwartz	Sue Fetterman	Barb McCrary	Betty Duncan
Flowers	Barb McCrary	Bethany Friends	Jim Grossman	Poinsettia Tree	Anonymous

December 2018



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 1 Sunday in Advent 11:00 A.M. Worship & Advent Luncheon 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo	3 6:45 P.M. Scouts 7:00 P.M. Cub Pack	4 7:00 P.M. Troop Committee Meeting	5 10:00 A.M. Advent Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	6	7 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	1 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast <hr/> 8
9 2 Sunday in Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo	10 6:45 P.M. Scouts 7:00 P.M. Cub Pack	11 7:00 P.M. District Roundtable Meeting	12 10:00 A.M. Advent Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	13	14 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Scout Camp Out →	15 6:45 P.M. White Deer Run
16 3 Sunday in Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo Scout Camp Out	17 5:30 P.M. Scouts Christmas Dinner	18 7:00 P.M. Scout Pack Meeting	19 10:00 A.M. Advent Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	20	21 First Day of Winter 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. Al Anon 	22
23 4 Sunday in Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas 	26 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	27	28 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	29
30 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo	31 New Year's Eve  New Year's Eve					Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.