

The Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church

Nov. 11, 2018

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PASTORS NOTES

Holy Days

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – *Psalm 118: 24*

These words are such a familiar part of our church and worship vocabulary, that they should spring to our lips often. I consider them to be a reminder and a faith statement all at once. Every Sunday, in hundreds, if not thousands of churches, this is the opening word for the day.

So, what, if anything, really makes each day special or certain days more memorable? Can we offer the words of Psalm 118: 24 with sincerity on Mondays when we head off to work, or come home to an empty house, or struggle with uncertainty around our health or lifestyles? It is not without some humor and truth that we sometimes, especially those of us who are beginning to get on in years or have survived health scares can speak to being grateful for getting up in the morning.

The band, Rare Earth said it this way back in 1971:

I just want to celebrate another day of livin'
I just want to celebrate another day of life
I put my faith in the people
But the people let me down
So I turned the other way

And I carry on, anyhow

A couple of thoughts: First, there are churches that will offer services that have come to be known as “Blue Christmas.” These are ostensibly for people who just cannot get up much enthusiasm to celebrate after the death of a loved one, or a bout of depression, or, a time of profound sadness. We can thank Elvis Presley for his album, “*Blue Christmas*,” I guess. Having said that, I have heard from people who after attending a Blue Christmas service very quickly return to a more familiar Christmas service to hear the words of hope and light proclaiming a light in the darkness, a faith in the redeeming power of God’s blessing.

The other thought is that, once again, the creative minds of Hollywood and the media have brought us yet a new “Grinch 2018” reboot of the Dr. Seuss classic. The Grinch is not meant to be a hero, but an anti-hero, that part of ourselves that resists the efforts to make us “Holly-Jolly” citizens of a consumer culture. What made and makes this story work at so many levels is the transformation of the Grinch in us all and the restoration of the Holy Day of Christmas, when we strive for the peace of our Lord. Dr. Seuss’ book was and is an unspoken reminder of the power of Christmas and hope to shape our story anew.

Holy days, our holidays, remind us of the sacredness of time and people, and occasions for gratitude and joy. Holidays are reminders but also breaks from what becomes (see pg. 2)

Thanksgiving Collection

Our annual Thanksgiving food collection will go to a needy family from the Paw Paw school district. Anne Helmick received a name from her principal this past week.

As you are shopping for food for your family, pick up a little extra. Bring it to church next Sunday. Items desired are nonperishables, similar to what you serve your family, examples are canned beans and other vegetables, canned fruits, including cranberries, jello mixes, cake mixes, canned pie fillings, nonperishable pie crusts. Since they have other meals to feed their children, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, tuna, and many other nonperishable possibilities would also be appreciated. If you prefer to provide a monetary contribution, someone from the church will be picking up a turkey, and other perishable items, before delivering to the family. Your monies will go to support that purchase. Any questions feel free to ask Virginia Marple or Anne Helmick.



Christmas food and monetary collections for gifts

At this time we are planning to provide gifts and food to a family from the Paw Paw school district at Christmas. When we have names, genders, sizes, we will relay that information to the congregation. Food for the Christmas meal, will be collected, along with other food. If you would like to contribute, bring your food contributions to the church starting, Nov. 25th. Monetary contributions will go to pay for our gifts.

Dec. 15th, members of the Christian Growth and Nurture Ministry will be shopping for those gifts. As plans are finalized, we will announce to the congregation! Thank you for your support!

MCEAT/MCIEC FOOD BANK

On the 2nd Sunday of every month, our church focuses on collecting food for MCIEC Food Bank. Butch Shouffler talked to Bill Locke at the food bank about what they need. He recommended two major items: 1. Money that is designated for purchasing food for the food bank. That way they can buy food as needed and cut down on waste. 2. Food Lion Beef Stew. They have found the beef stew as the most expensive item to keep on their shelves. From their experience, they have found that other canned good are more easily obtainable and less expensive. Plus, can be purchased as needed.

Thank you for your contributions and understanding their needs!



Presbyterian Women baskets

The Presbyterian Women will be meeting on Dec. 8th. At that meeting they will be filling their annual Christmas baskets for the shut in's. For more information, contact Paula Osborne.

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ordinary or what we take for granted to see our time in the context of blessing.

Thanksgiving comes a bit early on November 22, this year. In the end pretty much all our holidays are days in which we give thanks because of someone or what others have given for us. The gospel gives us a reason to give thanks for every day God gives us to grow and live and hope. Thanks be to God.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

JOIN US FOR A DINNER AFTER CHURCH ON NOV. 18TH. WOMEN IN THE CHURCH HAVE BEEN BUSY PLANNING A SPECIAL MEAL.

AT THAT TIME THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL BE COLLECTING THEIR 2018 THANK OFFERING.

QUESTIONS—ASK PAULA OSBORNE

Youth Group

All youth are invited to join the congregation for the fellowship dinner on Nov. 18th.

Dec. 9th, 3 PM, the youth will be decorating the church for Christmas. Dec. 15th purchasing gifts for our Christmas families, and Dec. 15th and 16th wrapping gifts at the church.

Annual Hospice Appreciation Dinner Nov. 13th at 6 PM, at the American Legion Hall. This is the major fundraising event in Morgan County. Hospice uses the monies earned, through this fundraising event, towards helping enhance their services, including to many who have little money or no insurance. Through contributions the quality of care can be kept high. Our church was asked to supply about a dozen desserts for the meal.

Hospice would love to welcome a new liaison with our church. If interested contact Rev. Osborne. **Irene Hedrick, Thank You** for your many years of service as our Hospice Liaison.

Nominating Committee Report

New nominees for the coming year (2019) from the nominating committee. The following members have agreed, if elected, that they would be willing to serve: **Trustees Committee:** Glenn Ryburn and John Marple, 2nd term. **Nominating Committee:** Walker Williams. **Elders:** Adrienne and Bill North, second term. We are scheduled to vote on these positions at a Congregation Meeting, scheduled for Dec. 9th, immediately following worship.

The Faith We Confess

Rev. Bob Osborne is teaching a class on **The Faith we Confess**. The focus will be on the Apostles Creed and will consider our confessions as an important part of our identity. All of these are based upon scripture and have helped people to interpret their faith for their times. Classes are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday at 11 AM. Contact Rev. Osborne for information.

Christmas Flowers Adrienne will be distributing information regarding our Christmas poinsettias and wreaths for the sanctuary. Check your bulletins for details.

Online prayer group - A place for you to post prayer requests, and learn about prayer requests from others in our group. If you would like to join, contact Virginia Marple.

CALENDAR

Nov 18th
Luncheon

Dec 2nd
Session

Dec 8th
Presbyterian
Women

Dec 9th
Congrega-
tional
Meeting

Youth deco-
rate church

Dec. 15th
purchase
gifts

Dec. 24th
service

Websites:

**Berkeley Springs Presbyter-
ian Church:**

www.bspcwv.com

Presbyterian Church USA:

www.pcusa.org

Shenandoah Presbytery:

www.shenpres.com

Massanetta Springs:

www.massanettasprings.org

**Growing Grace and Grati-
tude (curriculum children):**

[www.pcusastore.com/
GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads)

Baptism

***Today we are celebrating
the baptism of Iulieana
Isadora Michael. Con-
gratulations!***



Youth community news

***Reese Griffith graduated from flight
school on Oct. 22nd***

***Audrey had a successful Track season at
Warm Springs Middle School***

Congratulations!

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PLEASE
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