

In a year with many firsts, this Advent season will likely prove to be different than many before it. First, to help ensure there is 'enough room in the inn', our sanctuary, we will hold two worship services this Christmas Eve. The first will be a slightly informal, family-oriented service at 5PM. Our second service will begin at 7:30PM, a more traditional service with hymns. Both services will include the tradition of singing Silent Night by candlelight. We are also asking folks to **'RSVP' by Tuesday, December 22nd** in the church office to help us gauge the number we can expect at each service. Both services will also be live streamed, so if you are uncomfortable attending in person or are not feeling well, please join us online.

It has been a weird year for your pastors and the leadership of Clen-Moore when it comes to everything we have had to consider. In a lot of ways, however, this is the story of Christmas. Mary could have never anticipated that she, an average Jewish girl, would be given one of the greatest tasks of all human history—miraculously give birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. If an angel would have visited a year ago and said, "You will have to pastor a church during an unprecedented time over the next nine months," we would have responded less gracefully than Mary. It is safe to say few of us would.

The disruption caused by COVID-19 pales in comparison to such a gargantuan task, yet we have to wonder if it could help us understand how she felt. Mary's account of her miraculous encounter can be found in Luke 1:26-38. The presence of the angel Gabriel bringing this news first stirs a degree of fear in Mary, followed by confusion about how this would all come to be. After more explanation from Gabriel, Mary accepts the task and does so with positive anticipation in verse 38: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas where we anticipate that our fear and confusion would be transformed into hope and joy. Fear is what we experience when we have concern for our future; hope is trusting that our present day will someday become a bright future. Confusion sets in when things we take for granted disappear from under our feet; joy is having our feet firmly planted on the only immovable object in the universe—Jesus Christ.

For years Christians have bemoaned the commercialization of Christmas. Now that so much of that has been stripped away, maybe instead of asking "How did we end up here?", we might instead exclaim, like Mary, "Here we are, servants of the Lord; let it be with us according to your word." The moral of so many Christmas books, movies, and musicals is the reminder that our stuff does not (or should not) matter nearly as much as the ones we love. More specifically, as Christians, we are loved by God through the gift of our Messiah. We can still hope for a brighter tomorrow while continuing to experience the joy He has already brought us. And just as Mary makes a shift from fear and confusion to hope and joy, I pray that the next four Sundays of Advent will help us make the same shift in our own faith.

Merry Christmas!
Aaron and Michael



Health Note

Don't forget to get your flu shot!



The season of winter holidays is fast approaching and is a reason for rejoicing. For many of us, it is also a time when our stress levels increase. As we continue to face even more stresses in our lives through pandemic isolation and fears of illness, we may feel very overwhelmed. Stress refers to physical, psychological, and spiritual responses to perceived demands. When the people and activities that are important to us receive too little of our time and energy, we feel stressed!

There are many ways to address stress, but consider these suggestions to help: organize yourself, stick to a normal routine as much as possible, give yourself feedback, reward yourself with enjoyable leisure exercise, eat healthy foods (not skipping meals), smile a lot, ask for help when needed, and spend time daily with a loved one.

(Taken from Parish Nurse notes, New Wilmington Presbyterian Church)

Scripture: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." (Isaiah 26:3).

Stewardship & Finance

2021 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick-up in the Narthex on December 6, 2020. Please note that all 2020 contributions must be received or postmarked by **December 31, 2020**. Anything received after that date will be considered a 2021 donation. Thank you for your generosity to the mission and ministry of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church.

Advent Extras!!! Check out these Sunday morning worship activities.

1. **Sunday, December 13th** - We will welcome our New Members who are taking a deeper step in their faith relationships with our Clen-Moore Church family.
2. **Sunday, December 13th** - We are tentatively set to host a representative from the Alpha Omega Center (The Promise of Life Network) for a moment for mission.
3. **Sunday, December 20th** - We will ordain and install our newly called elders and deacons for their upcoming terms of service.

MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IS DECEMBER 17th

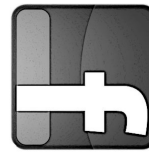
DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER, 2020

- 1 Psalm 96
- 2 Psalm 97
- 3 Psalm 98
- 4 Psalm 99
- 5 Psalm 100
- 6 Isaiah 40.1-31
- 7 Isaiah 41.1-29
- 8 Isaiah 42.1-25
- 9 Jonah 1.1-17
- 10 Jonah 2.1-10
- 11 Jonah 3.1-10
- 12 Jonah 4.1-11
- 13 Isaiah 43.1-21
- 14 Isaiah 43.22 - 44.8
- 15 Isaiah 44.9-28
- 16 II Corinthians 10.1-18
- 17 II Corinthians 11.1-33
- 18 II Corinthians 12.1-21
- 19 II Corinthians 13.1-13
- 20 Psalm 126
- 21 Psalm 127
- 22 Psalm 128 Christmas
- 25 Luke 2.1-20
- 26 Luke 2.21-40
- 27 Matt 2.1-23
- 28 Philippians 1.1-30
- 29 Philippians 2.1-29
- 30 Philippians 3.1-21
- 31 Philippians 4.1-23



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IN LOVING MEMEORY

Dan Troxell



SAVE THE DATE

- Please **RSVP by Tuesday, December 22nd** for Christmas Eve services, if you are attending in person.
- Sunday Worship can be viewed live or recorded by going to: **www.clenmoore.org**, and click on the blue box that says **“Watch Sunday’s worship service”** or on Facebook live.

Mission Partner Spotlight: “Alpha Omega Center”

The Alpha Omega Center has a new identity called The Promise of Life Network. They are a local ministry that is committed to building a community where life is cherished from conception to natural death. Each leaf in their logo represents an initiative that is built on valuing life, caring for others, and sharing the love of Christ.

There are many ways in which this agency reaches out to women and families in need such as: parenting classes, providing medical assistance and counseling and encouragement for pregnant women, material family care, education of young people in healthy relationships, abstinence programs for churches, post-abortion and post-miscarriage counseling, education on the risks of at home abortions, and so much more.

You can check out their website at promiseoflifefnetwork.org to learn more about them. Their website explains ways you can give, pray, and/or volunteer.



YOUTH CORNER:



C.2G.S. - Our junior and senior high Sunday School class will wrap our study on Bible characters with the Apostle Paul’s friend Lydia. Then we will move into some advent activities and stories that will revisit what the Bible says of the events that led up to and including the birth of Jesus Christ. Be ready to test your knowledge of what the Bible said actually happened versus what is more holiday tradition.

KFC & FlipSide - Due to the difficulties with the virus that we are currently experiencing we will see how things unfold at the beginning of the month. From there, we will or will not plan some youth activities. Youth and families will need to stay posted and keep checking your emails.

No Youth Confirmation Class for 2021 - Normally, we do a youth confirmation class every other year and this is the school year that we are due to have another one. However, this year is anything but normal. Our confirmation program is heavily based on a mentor-to-mentee relationship, which requires being together in close proximity to complete the assignments. Therefore, we will offer the confirmation program again next school year, which will be in January of 2022. Contact Pastor Aaron with any questions.



A Grant has been given to the Clen-Moore

youth program in honor of

Mr. Thomas S. Mansell

for his ministry with the

Knox Distribution Committee.



thank you

thank you



Deacons of the month:

Barbara Richards
& Tom Teleis

