

Dear Church Family,

Every Advent we spend close to a month anticipating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Sometimes it can feel strange, because in reality, we do not have to wait—we know that Jesus was already born more than 2,000 years ago and changed the course of history. But I would be willing to bet we have all had to wait on God as we anticipated Him to move in our lives in some shape or form.

Mary and other characters in the Bible surely waited with anticipation while she carried Jesus in her womb, but there were others who waited even longer. One of the best examples of this happens in Luke 2:25-26, shortly after the birth of Jesus: *“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.”* Simeon was pretty old when Jesus was presented in the temple in this story. It is hard to imagine waiting an entire lifetime for God to be true to His word for us, but Advent and Christmas are a good reminder that our expectations and God’s timing are not always the same.

Maybe you have felt like you have been waiting your entire life for God to speak or move on your behalf. Even if it has not been your entire life, there is likely something that feels incomplete. At the same time, there are likely instances you can reflect back on that are evidence of God moving when you thought all hope was lost. Think about the task we have as preachers (Aaron and Michael) and wondering if the word of God is making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. But I know we could both point to experiences in our own lives where it may have taken months or years to see how Jesus was redeeming a situation or breaking through into someone’s life in a new way when we could have never imagined it.

This is the joy of anticipating the birth of Jesus. In the same way we already know how the story goes, we learn and relearn to anticipate him moving in new ways. Part of anticipation is being ready when Jesus makes His presence known. We cannot predict exactly when or how it will happen, but like Mary, if we knew God’s plan in advance we might not go along for the ride as willingly.

Last but not least, many have already been asking about our Christmas Eve plans. Based on our observations and feedback from last year’s services, we will have one service at 6pm. It will incorporate various aspects of both services, including candlelight singing of Silent Night. We look forward to celebrating together (whether in person or via livestream), and pray that God would continue to break into our lives like the light of Christ in the midst of the dark night.

Merry Christmas!
Aaron and Michael



Health Note:

“The Advent focus of JOY sparks many ponderings and definitions. Barbara Johnson in ‘Joy Breaks’ cites Job 8:21 as ‘a mouthful of laughter’. As an important component of joy, laughter’s effect has been defined as the ‘biology of hope at work’ by Lee Berk, MD. His years of research have focused on the impact of moods on the immune system and disease. A most recent study indicates that even the anticipation of laughter will boost mood and immunity. You now have been given a medical reason for chilling out with a funny video! You are boosting your immune system and that is therapy for body, mind, and spirit. This is known as wholistic health, so savor it and share the anticipation present during Advent and giggle your way into a mouthful of laughter!”
(New Wilmington Presbyterian Church Parish nurses)

Scripture: “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11)



YOUTH

C.2G.S. - (Connect, Grow, Go, Serve) Jr/Sr High Sunday School will be doing some advent and Christmas related Bible study, trivia games, and card writing. Following this month, we will start our study on what the Bible says about end times as we study various Scripture passages that deal with this topic, including Revelation.

FlipSide youth group will be planning a “lock-in” over Christmas break. Please pay attention to your emails for the details of this event as well as updated information on other youth activities.

CONFIRMATION for students in 7th-12th grade will start in January, 2022. We will have an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 9th** after worship in the youth room. At this meeting, we will go over the details of the program and look over the calendar as well. Please contact Pastor Aaron with interest and with any questions.

Attention

The directory committee will be in the welcome center before and after worship to assist those who need help throughout the month of December.



Stewardship & Finance

Stewardship & Finance 2022 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick-up in the Narthex on **December 12, 2021**. Please note that all 2021 contributions must be received or postmarked by **December 31, 2021**. Anything received after that date will be considered a 2022 donation. Thank you for your generosity to the mission and ministry of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church.

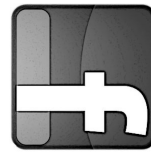


MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IS DECEMBER 17th.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

December, 2021

- 1 Zechariah 3.1-10
- 2 Zechariah 4.1-14
- 3 Zechariah 5.1-11
- 4 Zechariah 6.1-15
- 5 Psalm 54
- 6 Zechariah 7.1-14
- 7 Zechariah 8.1-23
- 8 Zechariah 9.1-17
- 9 Zechariah 10.1 - 11.3
- 10 Zechariah 11.4-17
- 11 Zechariah 12.1-14
- 12 Psalm 62
- 13 Zechariah 13.1-9
- 14 Zechariah 14.1-21
- 15 II Peter 1.1-21
- 16 II Peter 2.1-22
- 17 II Peter 3.1-18
- 18 Psalm 60
- 19 Psalm 61
- 20 Isaiah 50.1-11
- 21 Isaiah 51.1-23
- 22 Isaiah 52.1-12
- 23 Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12
- 24 John 1.1-28 Christmas
- 25 Matthew 1.1-24
- 26 Matthew 2.1-23
- 27 I Thess'ns 1.1-10
- 28 I Thess'ns 2.1-20
- 29 I Thess'ns 3.1-13
- 30 I Thess'ns 4.1-18
- 31 I Thess'ns 5.1-28



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May your **Home** be warm,
your **Holidays** grand,
& may your **Heart** be
held gently in the Lord's hands.

Mission Spotlight!

December—World Impact
Served by Joshua (Sal) and Terrilyn Pacella

Sal and Terrilyn serve with World Impact in Cochabamba, Bolivia where they live with their four children. The Pacella's recognized a great food need during Covid due to the severe restrictions placed by the Bolivian government. God called on them to become a food pantry! Sal was able to purchase a bicycle and use it to transport goods thus avoiding blockades and transport restrictions. Opportunities arose to better know their neighbors and encourage them in the Lord.

Together, they manage four orphanages which care for 40 abandoned children. Sal serves as administrator while Terrilyn is involved with various duties associated with the orphanages.

The Pacella's pray that they will continue to recognize unique ways in which to serve the Lord and ask the Father for directions for their ministry.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!



The Children & Youth Christmas Musical is on **Sunday, December 5th**. Clen-Moore's youth will be sharing their gifts of song and stage to bring us the Good News of Christmas once again. Invite your family and friends to come and experience "Two Nights Before Christmas" and let your hearts be warmed as we turn them to Jesus Christ this advent season. Dress Rehearsal is **Saturday, December 4th** from **9:30am to 12pm**.



We will be taking down Christmas decorations on Sunday, **January 2nd**, following worship services, and are in need of volunteers to help. There will be light refreshments provided.



Happy
Holidays!



Deacons for the month of December:
Sandy Bumgardner and Barb Richards

