

THE BELL TOWER



Paris Presbyterian
Church

127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021

724-729-3450

Advent Greetings, one and all!

Advent is a season of waiting. OK, let's stop right there. I can almost hear you, "More waiting?? That's all we've done is wait!" You're right about that. 2020 has been a whole year of waiting; waiting for restaurants and shops to open, waiting to get back to church, waiting to be able to get together with family and friends, waiting for COVID to go away. UGH! Enough waiting already. All of those things are still very uncertain, and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight just yet, and so we wait without much hope of getting back to normal any time soon. This is all the more reason to embrace the waiting of Advent. During this season, we wait and prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, and we await His return at the Second Coming. As we light our advent candles each week, we are reminded that our waiting is not in vain. During this season, we light the candle of Hope, reminding us that our hope is fulfilled in Jesus. Because of Jesus, we are not left in our sin; He came to take our sin to the cross and give us hope in the resurrection. We also light the candle of Peace, reminding us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The next candle we light is the Joy candle because Jesus fills our hearts with joy. The Sunday before Christmas, we light the Love candle and acknowledge that God demonstrated His love for us by coming into the world in a baby; Emmanuel – God with us. On Christmas Eve we light the Christ candle to signify the end of darkness. Isaiah 9:2 tells us, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Jesus is the light of the world; Jesus is the light in our darkness. I pray that during this Advent Season; this season of waiting, you will hold on to the hope, peace, joy and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that your waiting is not in vain. There are eternal rewards for your faithfulness. While our celebrations may be different this year, we still have a reason to celebrate. This year, more than ever, we are aware that Jesus is the reason for the season.

What better reason to celebrate than knowing that we get to spend eternity with our Lord. This year we will be celebrating like we've never celebrated before, so I pray that we will all do just that – celebrate like we've never celebrated before! Make this Christmas a time to self-reflect, as we've been talking about for the last few months, and make sure that your heart is right with Jesus. And remember, He came for you. More than 1600 years ago, St. Augustine of Hippo said this: “God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” Jesus loves you that much!

Have a Blessed Christmas!!

Rev. Tina



CHURCH CRIER

DEACONS FOOD BOXES AVAILABLE

The Deacons will have food boxes available for anyone who needs food for Christmas. People do not have to be a member to get a box.

Names for the boxes have to be into the office by December 11 and pick-up for the boxes will be December 19.

The boxes will include canned vegetables, pastas, paper products, and a small ham. If you have any questions, please call Leslie Jancart at 724-947-2899 or contact the church office at 724-729-3450.

NO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY. A CORPORATE MEETING WILL BE HELD WHEN IT IS SAFE IN THE FUTURE.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL REPORT WILL BE AVAILABE SOME- TIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.

VALENTINES FOR VETS

Even though Christmas is not here yet, it is time to start thinking about Valentines for Veterans. This year the makings for the Valentines will be on a table in the church library in a plastic bag. The bag will include the card stock, a marker, and stickers and will have enough materials for 5 cards. We had 25 cards donated so we need 75 made for the Veterans hospital in Clarksburg, WV.

Each bag will be numbered, and a sign out sheet with numbers will allow you to sign your name to the corresponding Valentine bag.

The bags will be available in the church library on January 16 and should be returned by January 30. If you have questions, please call Barbara LaPosta (724-729-3725).



NO POINSETTIAS THIS YEAR

Since the Christmas Eve Service will be virtual this year, there will be no poinsettias for purchase. Everyone is encouraged to buy one on their own to take it to a shut-in or purchase one for themselves and remember someone who is no longer with us.

This is also a good time to purchase items from the small businesses in our area. They are fighting for their survival.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES TO BE VIRTUAL

Because of CDC guidelines, we cannot have the church packed on Christmas Eve, but that does not mean that there will not be services.

The service will be virtual on YouTube and will feature children from the church and traditional carols at 7:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve.

Prepare your homes for Christmas Eve with our **Christmas Worship Bags** which can be picked up at the church (Date & Time TBD). And join us for family worship at home!



MANSE KITCHEN UPDATE

The manse kitchen has new wiring, lights, a sliding door, a doorway into the new dining room (former bedroom) and upper cabinets thanks to Dennis Jancart and Kelly Ward.

They are now working on putting the base and some wall units together and will be building a wall for pocket doors to the new dining room.

If you see Dennis or Kelly, thank them for their beautiful work!



DRIVE THRU TRUNK OR TREAT

The Corona virus has caused many activities to be cancelled, but some very creative people at our church under the direction of Karen Cowan found a way to have Trunk or Treat. They packed bags with candy donated by the congregation and bags to decorate pumpkins. They then organized a drive thru Trunk or Treat for the kids to get the candy, a pumpkin, and the decorations for the pumpkin's face.

Special thanks to the Hanover Township Police and Fire Departments for helping to direct traffic and to all of the volunteers who helped. About 70 kids got treats.



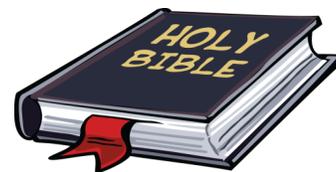
SHOEBOXES SENT TO GAHANA

When shoeboxes are sent around the world, it is now possible to track where the boxes from our church are sent. Ours were sent to Gahana in Africa. It is the first country south of the Sahara Desert.

Our church sent 161 boxes which is fantastic in this year since most activities not taking place. A recent donation from Edith Ralston's family paid for the shipping and items which have been purchased for next year.

Sue Marsh wishes to thank everyone who donated boxes and materials for boxes, and to those who volunteered to help pack. The Dennis Jancart family delivered the boxes to the McDonald Presbyterian Church which acted as a depository for churches in our area.

Children are children no matter where they live, and hopefully, the ones who receive our boxes will realize that somewhere, someone in the world care about them.



FIRST AND SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVE BIBLES

Even though children in Sunday School are not meeting, those who were entering 1st and 7th grade this year were presented Bibles from the Christian Education Committee.

Our first graders are Talon Peterson and Sophia Trautman. Seventh graders are Lucy Moore, Raya Sentipal, and Lilly ?

Live Devotional Series

On Facebook Live

“Ask, Seek, Knock”

Go to our Facebook Page or
ParisECO.net/calendar

Led by Outreach Director Joel Peterson

December 2 — **Ask:** Isaiah 64.

Asking is what we do while we wait for God. Learn how God is a bit like Gandalf from Lord of the Rings.

December 9 — **Seek:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Preparing the way requires exploring new, uncertain territory. Think about how the 1914 Christmas Truce might have something to say about what is required of us.

December 16 — **Knock:** Isaiah 43:14-21

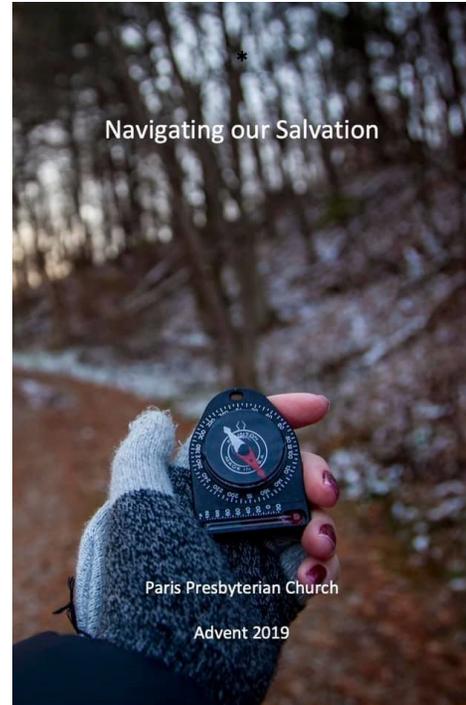
When we come through a doorway, we often forget what it was for which we went into the room. At the doorway of Advent, we cast off what is behind us.

December 23 — **Receive:** Isaiah 55:1-3

Learn about the upcoming biggest food pantry distribution in history! Christmas is about receiving God's free gift.

December 30 — **Gather:** Isaiah 66:18-24

As we're stuck at home for the holidays, what does it mean to be gathered as a people of God?

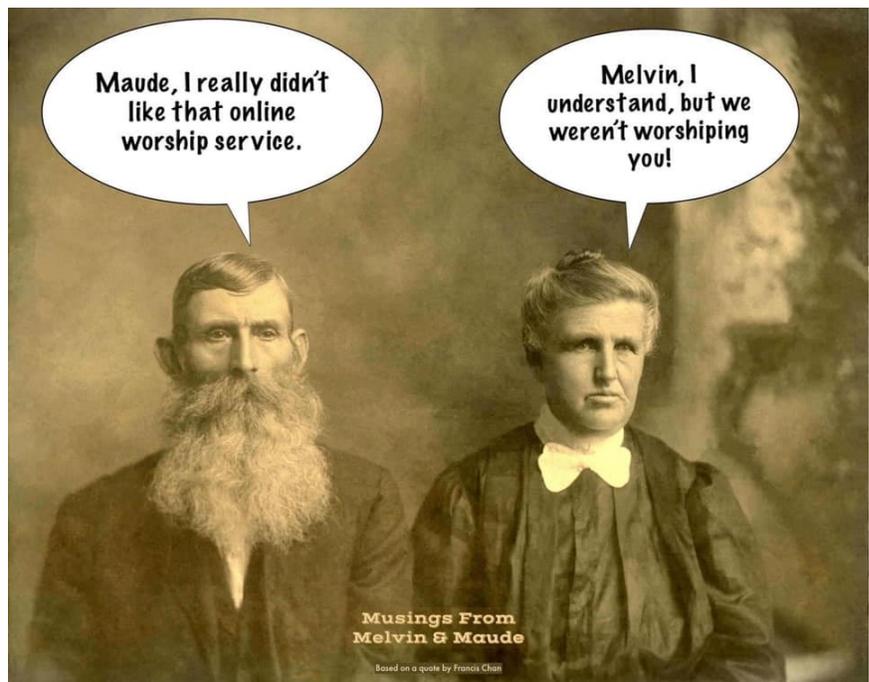


You can still access last year's Advent Devotional, “Navigating Our Salvation.”

Go to ParisECO.net/Grow/Advent

Or stop by the Gathering Place to pick up a printed copy.

They can also be mailed for a donation to cover postage.





FREE SOUP WEDNESDAY A BIG SUCCESS

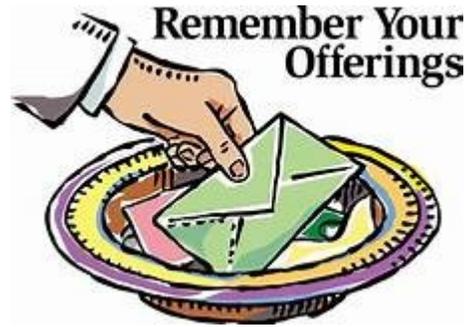
There is nothing better on a chilly autumn day and now a wintery day than a cup of homemade soup. Then make the soup free, and that is a recipe for success.

The Wednesday soup day has proven so popular that instead of two soup selections, there are now three soups to choose from.

Call the church office and find out what the soup choices are and give them your order. Joel will have the soup ready for you when you arrive at the church.

Joel would like to thank everyone who has donated a soup, and he would appreciate anyone who would like to make soup to let him know.

If there are any shut-ins who like soup delivered to them, call the church office



END OF YEAR GIVING

Even with the church services only virtual for part of year, the church remained open, and bills still had to be paid for utilities, salaries, insurance, etc.

The budget will still have to be balanced, and only our congregation can determine if it will be in the red or the black.

We know this has been a trying time for some more than others. If you have the means, please bring your giving up to date, and if you can afford it, give more. For our church to help others, we have to help the church.

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12-24-1997

I HATE TO ASK YOU NICE FOLKS TO MOVE, BUT THE INN'S MARKETING DEPARTMENT FIGURES THAT IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THIS TREE GETS BETTER RECOGNITION THAN YOUR SON



IN MEMORIUM

**Delnora Barkhurst, Edith Ralston,
George Evans Dave McGill,
and Zak Bennet.**



ORCHIDS AND ONIONS

ORCHIDS: To Dennis Jancart and Kelly Ward for remodeling Pastor Tina's kitchen.

ORCHIDS: To all who are following the CDC guidelines and wearing mask, social distancing, and staying home as much as possible.

ORCHIDS: To all who volunteered for activities at the church.

ORCHIDS: To First Responders and hospital workers who keep working as the pandemic gets worse.

ORCHIDS: To Joel for helping with anything and everything when called upon to do so.

ONIONS: No onions. Most people are trying hard to do what is right.

ORCHIDS: To Jessica Fowler for preaching last week.

ORCHIDS: For those who have made soup for Free Soup Wednesday and for those who delivered soup to shut-ins.

ORCHIDS: And thank you for continuing to keep your tithing current.

ORCHIDS: To the Deacons and Elders who will finish their terms this month. Well done good and faithful servants.

ORCHIDS: To the Nominating Committee members who are working to fill new terms for Deacons and Elders.

ORCHIDS: To all who feel called to lead the church and accept that call.

The Candy Cane Gospel

LETTER "J"

Jesus Christ
is the promised
Savior



RED STRIPES

Christ's blood
was shed
for us
on the cross



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

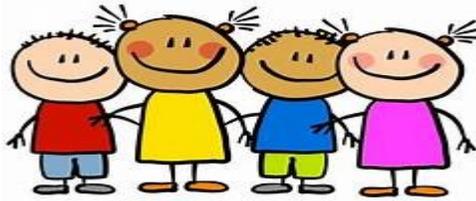
Jesus is the
Good Shepherd
and His sheep
hear and follow
His voice



WHITE CANDY

Our sins were
washed away by
the sacrifice of a
sinless Savior





GIFT OF JESUS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



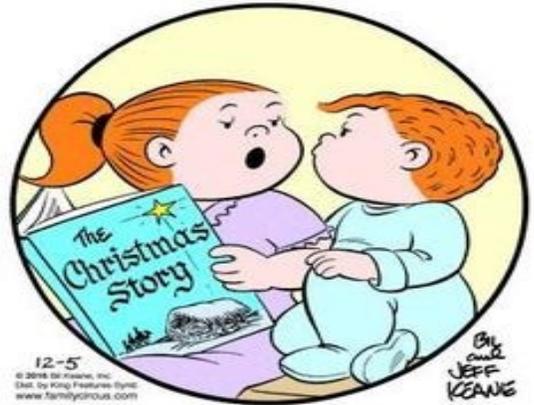
I DON'T GET IT!
I'VE OPENED ALL MY PRESENTS!
I'VE GOT TONS OF STUFF!
BUT SOMEHOW...
I'M NOT SATISFIED!

THERE'S ONE PRESENT
YOU HAVEN'T OPENED,
AND I KNOW THAT IT'S
THE ONLY THING THAT
WILL SATISFY!

www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

— PSALM 107: 8-9 NIV



12-5

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By
JEFF
KEANE

"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."

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12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN



Church Mice



LORD, HELP ME TO KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

WHAT'S THAT? YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT! THANK YOU...

♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ♪

ZOROWSKI





2020—THE “NO YEAR”

When the ball dropped to usher in 2020, very few people expected our world to be turned upside down, inside out, and twirled around and around. The biggest conversation was who would be elected president, would the Pirates be any better than last year, and how bad would the winter be.

In March, the bottom fell out of our world as we knew it. The Novel Corona Virus hit especially hard in large cities. All of a sudden everything was shut down. Restaurants and businesses shut down, schools closed, and then the students were introduced to virtual learning. Parents had to scramble to find child care or devise a way to work at home and teach their children at the same time. Many parents found out how valuable teachers are.

Our church, as well as most others, closed, and then, we reopened virtually. Finally, our church reopened physically, we but had to have a smaller flock in the church, with virtual services available on YouTube. Very few church activities are taking place. If they are, they have been adapted to meet the CDC guidelines.

There were no Fellowship dinners, corn roast, or Thanksgiving feast. The traditional Trunk or Treat activities of games and food became a drive thru.

Eating out became ordering ahead and picking up the food to eat at home or going

for fast food and eating in the car.

Sports were cancelled for professionals, amateurs, and youth leagues. People found they had hours of time on their hands with nothing to do.

Staying home became a way of life. We have moaned and groaned about wearing a mask even though scientists tell us they work. Some, who refuse to wear a mask, feel that their constitutional rights are more important than protecting other people. What happened to loving your neighbor as yourself?

Has there been anything positive this year? Yes, our church staff has worked diligently to continue to deliver services both in church and on line. We have learned that we can stay home and be content. We do not need everything that we think that we do. We have cleaned out and gotten rid junk and things that we do not use.

Families have spent quality time with each other because there is nothing else to do. For many, game night has become a weekly event.

Maybe, 2021 will be a more positive year. There are vaccines on the horizon, so hopefully, the virus can be stopped soon. Those who are young can tell their children about how they survived the pandemic. We can all be thankful for our health, and perhaps appreciate life more in the future.

We can thank God for walking with us as we travelled the rugged road we have been on this year; for all of the First Responders and hospital workers who risked their lives to care for others; for our Pastor and staff who have loved us and listened to our fears even when we criticized them; and for our families who have been there for us. Hopefully 2021 will be a “yes” year!!!!



DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

The growing season is over; the first frost has occurred; and the leaves are raked. Your outdoor chores are finished. Right? Not necessarily. Any work that we do in the fall or early winter makes our spring clean up much easier.

Look around and see if any branches have fallen or if any leaves are tucked under benches. Did you put away all of the outdoor furniture or the garden tools?

Are there are plants that need to be mulched? Sometimes leaves are too wet and heavy as mulch. Good mulch is pine branches or pine straw.

“Leaves die, but trees do not. They only undress.” Henry Ward Beecher

Winter pictures of our landscaping are often bleak, showing a world of trees with dark silhouettes. It does not have to be that way. When choosing a new tree for your yard, think four seasons of color or interest.

Birch or aspens have white bark that stands out in the winter. Paper bark maples and lace bark elms have bark that peels naturally and creates interest. When you go to a plant nursery, don't just asked for a red maple. Ask them what trees have visual interest all year. Box stores have trees cheaper, but many times they are not watered properly. A tree is an investment in the

future. Choose your new tree as if you are buying something that will live and be enjoyed for generations.

Inside our house, we are enjoying the house plants that we brought in from our porch. An orchid just finished blooming, the Thanksgiving cactuses are in various cycles of bloom, a lemon tree (Thanks to Tanika Anderson.) has four lemons on it, and the air in our house is definitely cleaner and has more oxygen because of plants.

Perhaps you are thinking about purchasing a poinsettia for the Christmas season. The box and discount stores display the plants near the door so that we buy them. The problem is that poinsettias are a tropical plant, and they shiver every time the door opens. If you ever had a poinsettia that has leaves that turn yellow and fall off, it may have gotten cold or was not watered properly. It may cost a bit more to get one from the nursery, but your plant will have been taken care of and kept warm and watered.

When you get your plant home, check to see if it needs to be watered, find a bright area to place it in (not in hot sun), and enjoy it for months to come. I put mine outside in pots with other flowers, and it makes a pretty tall plant for the pot. I don't have the patience to care for it to make it bloom. I just leave it outside, but I enjoyed it for at least 10 months.

Plants or plant tools make great gifts for gardeners. Buy a basket and fill it with hand trowels, garden gloves, small boxes of fertilizer, seeds, and garden magazines. Other ideas are unique houseplants, garden books, a garden magazine subscription, a picture of flowers, garden sculptures, or wind chimes. Such gifts show that you appreciated all of their work in their garden.



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PARIS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
127 STEUBENVILLE PIKE
BURGETTSTOWN, PA 15021

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PERMIT # 54
WEIRTON, WV 26062

SERVICES: Sunday 8:45 (Contemporary) and 11:00 A.M. (Traditional) , SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES: Mondays: 7:00 PM (church) , Wednesday: 7 P.M. (church), and several online studies {Check with church office}.

DECEMBER:

**9—Online Advent Devotional
11:00 A.M.**

Free Soup Wednesday-Noon

**16--Online Advent Devotional
11:00 A.M.**

Free Soup Wednesday-Noon

**23-- Online Advent Devotional
11:00 A.M.**

Free Soup Wednesday-Noon

**24- Christmas Eve Virtual Service
7:00 P.M.**

JANUARY:

1—New Year's Day

18-M.L. King, JR Day

FEBRUARY:

14-Valentine's Day

18-Presidents' Day