

THE WINDOW

A Publication of Germantown Presbyterian Church

December 2019



Advent programming dates

Remember to reserve your poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one.



ear GPC Family and Friends,

This time of year is very special at GPC, and I love what Advent and Christmas mean for our church family. Our worship services are so Spirit-filled, and they are meaningful and memorable. I'm especially grateful for our musicians and how hard they work preparing for this seasonal burst of joyful song. They practice throughout the fall to prepare for this intense four-week period of "making a joyful noise."

Each week in worship during Advent we will read different portions of the prophets and how they framed their hope for a Messiah. They were attuned to God's voice, and they brought hope to people who were weary and worn down. We usually think of the prophets as harbingers of doom and gloom, pronouncing anger and judgment against sinful people. They did this, to be sure, as they delivered the message of God's verdict against the people's idolatry and injustice. They delivered also, however, messages of hope and promises of God's deliverance in the future. Through the prophets, the people began to expect a Savior to come from God to deliver them from injustice and suffering.

At Christmas, we will retell some of our favorite stories about Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. So many of us know these stories by heart, yet we love to hear them again and again. One part of the story that repulses us occurs when King Herod goes mad with fear and jealousy toward the infant King – who he perceives as a threat to his power. Herod orders the killing of all boys in Israel under two years old in order to snuff out any rival. Can you imagine how much agony so many families suffered at the hands of this tyrant?

Joseph, Mary, and their infant Jesus escaped for their lives to a land very foreign and potentially hostile to them as Jews: Egypt. Jews would not have forgotten their centuries of slavery in the land of Egypt, even if they were many centuries removed from it. For most of Jewish history, Egypt was a military powerhouse that dominated that sphere of the world politically and economically. Joseph was obedient to God's call, however, and followed the instructions he heard in a dream to flee to Egypt. Joseph and Mary became refugees escaping oppression and tyranny in their homeland as they sought protection for themselves and especially their young son.

I cannot help but draw parallels between this Biblical family and many of the families I read about who are modern-day refugees. One of the greatest things about our country is that we have been a beacon of freedom shining in some dark and sinister places. Our country has been a place of refuge for many people escaping despotic political oppression, and each year we invite tens of thousands of people to find hope and freedom within our bounds. There is a legal asylum program administered by our federal government that provides shelter for people escaping political and social cruelty in their countries of origin.

One of the most debilitating global problems today involves the inordinate number of people escaping their homelands in search of a better life – mainly to Europe or the United States. Some are



fleeing war and torture, while others are trying to escape poverty. We know that immigration, legal and illegal, is an intractable and insufferable problem for our country. It boggles the mind to see how many hundreds of thousands of people attempt to enter the U.S. illegally every year. The Supreme Court has just recently listened to legal arguments regarding the status of "Dreamers," those brought to the U.S. as minors (without any say and at the will and discretion of their parents) and who have no means by which to stay in the U. S. legally. Should they be deported back to their countries of origin, or should there be some means by which they are allowed to stay and get on track to a path of legal residence or citizenship?

I have made it a point of study for me during this winter to educate myself better on the complicated social and faith issues surrounding immigration. I hear many different opinions about immigration, but I don't hear anyone saying that the current system we have works well at all. Our current system is overwhelmed and is not able to handle the number of people attempting to enter into the U.S. At the same time, many U.S. companies, from agricultural producers to manufacturers to builders rely on immigrant labor to accomplish their economic goals.

I need to learn more about the various issues surrounding immigration because it is the biggest humanitarian problem facing our country today. Does the church have a role to play in addressing the issues and praying for solutions? I have just started a book called *Welcoming the Stranger*, written by two Christians who are tackling questions regarding immigration from a faith perspective. I need to hear what they have learned regarding their service among "the least of these" who are immigrants.

In the New Year, I hope to have an informal gathering where others who have read the book can join me for a discussion of its points and conclusions. I don't know where the healthy boundary is between hospitality for immigrants and the legal protections we must have to prevent immigration chaos. I'm hoping that between this book and our discussions, our church members can gain a better understanding of this dire, complex issue as it increases in importance in coming months and years. You'll be hearing more about this soon, and I invite you to pray with me for all refugees in our world.

For now, have a blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas.

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GPC ADVENT SCHEDULE 2019



1st Sunday of Advent December 1
2:30pm Sounds of the Season
Kallen Esperian, Gary Beard
GPC Chancel Choir / Brass Ensemble
GPC Sanctuary

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8

2:30pm Dr. Alex Benford,
Organ Christmas Pops
Concert
GPC Sanctuary





3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15
4:00pm Loss, Healing, and Hope:
a Blue Christmas Service
historic Evans Chapel



Christmas Eve, December 24
3:30pm Family Service
GPC sanctuary
5:30pm Traditional Service
GPC sanctuary
11:00pm Candlelight Service
historic Evans Chapel



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15
3:30pm Christmas Caroling
meet in AC lobby



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15
5:30pm Chili Cook-off
Warren Fellowship Hall

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS NOW. YOU CAN ORDER THEM IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A SPECIAL LOVED ONE OR TO CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION OR DATE. USE THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES IN THE PEWS OR EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS@GERMANTOWNPRES. ORG WITH YOUR DEDICATION. DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.

Music Notes

Those of us at GPC who are involved in planning and providing music for worship wish for you and yours a wonderful, exciting month of excitement and joy! Use this reminder of events and worship services in the month of December to plan your Advent and Christmastide schedule. Remember to invite friends to join you!

Mark your calendars:

December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, is a very BIG music Sunday at GPC. The GPC Chancel Choir and a brass ensemble will participate in both morning services offering the John Rutter *Gloria* as an integral part of worship. This is a very exciting work and, when combined with our opening hymn *O Come*, *O Come*, *Emanuel* and offertory anthem *A Shoot Shall Come Forth*, we will know that the season of Advent has arrived. At 2:30pm our Chancel Choir and instrumental ensemble return joining Kallen Esperian and Gary Beard for our annual concert *Sounds of the Season*. Invite friends and come EARLY!!

WORSHIP and MUSIC at GPC in December:

Sunday, December 1: 8:30am & 11:00am Worship > Chancel Choir & brass ensemble > Rutter *Gloria*, Holy Communion

2:30pm > Sounds of the Season with Kallen Esperian, Gary Beard, GPC Chancel Choir & brass ensemble

Sunday, December 8: 8:30am & 11:00am Worship > Adult Bells, Chapel Singers, Chancel Choir

2:30pm > Christmas Pops Organ Concert, GPC organist, Dr. Alex Benford featuring works by Reger, Sumsion, Langlais, Utterback, Heiller, Gigout, and more!

Sunday, December 15: 8:30am & 11:00am Worship > soloists, children's choirs, children's bell choir, Chancel Choir

3:30pm > Christmas Caroling (meet in Activity Center, buses provided)

4:00pm > Blue Christmas Worship Service, historic Evans Chapel

5:30pm > Chili Cook-off Competition, Warren Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 22, Christmas Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am Worship > Chancel Choir & brass quintet, carols, anthems - an exciting Christmas celebration.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship 3:30pm: Family Worship (sanctuary) led by GPC children, harp, trumpets in Pre-Service

5:30pm: Traditional Candlelight Communion Service (sanctuary) with Chancel Choir, soloists, harp, trumpets

11:00pm: Midnight Candlelight Communion Service (historic Evans Chapel) with soloist & harp

Sunday, December 29: 8:30am & 11:00am Worship > 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

A BIG thank you to all of our talented musicians who work so hard to make Advent and Christmastide such a special time of the year. I also thank all of you in our congregation who support music at GPC year-round through our annual church budget and your special contributions to both the Teachey Scholarship Fund and our Music Fund. You give me the ability to plan and implement quality music in worship at GPC throughout the church year, especially during the month of December. Thank You!! I look forward to seeing YOU in Worship!!!

Jerold C. Teachey, D.M. Director of Music



CHURCE

The church office occasionally needs help at the front desk. This involves answering phones, letting people into the building, maybe entering attendance on the computer, and other light clerical needs as they occur. If you are available and would like to help during the day, please contact Ann DeVere in the office at 901-754-5195 or annd@germantownpres.org.

THANK YOU, PW, FROM THE GPC STAFF

On Tuesday, October 22, a group of Presbyterian Women treated the staff to a Staff Appreciation Lunch in Warren Fellowship Hall. Set against a sports-themed background, the ladies provided the staff with delicious food, an actual tailgate (!) party complete with hot cider courtesy of Tamah Halfacre's awesome car, a visit from the Germanown High School Cheerleaders, games, and fellowship time. Thank you, PW, for a time of great food and fellowship with each other and you! This was a very special and fun time.





As you know, GPC is updating our existing photo directory. Hard copies are on a table in the Activity Center lobby for you to check your information and either make changes or initial if there are no changes. If you haven't had a chance to view that but know you have changes, you can contact the church office at 901-754-5195 or office@germantown-pres.org.

If you would like to update your picture (or add one if you don't have one in there), contact the church office at 901-754-5195 or office@germantownpres.org or just email a picture to the office email address.







CONGREGATIONAL LIF

Some Staff Reading Suggestions for the Holidays

From Anna White, Director of Children's Mnistry

Recently, some GPC moms of young children have gathered to read an Advent devotional - *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus* by Asheritah Ciuciu. Beginning the first day of Advent, December 1, you can begin your own Advent devotion by reading this book because the author leads readers through the four weeks of Advent.

Each week:

- begins with an interactive family devotional that equips readers to celebrate Advent together;
- offers five daily reflections that focus on that week's name of Jesus;
- includes suggestions for fun-filled family activities or service projects.



This devotional can be used by readers in their own personal worship times or as a tool to engage in family worship during the busy holiday season. Either way, participants will gain a greater sense of awe and wonder at who Jesus is. By focusing on the person and character of Jesus throughout the Advent season, readers will

prepare their hearts so that when they admire the live nativity, sit in the candlelight service, or wake up on Christmas morning, they can join the faithful who sing from the bottom of their hearts, "O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!"

Finally, you can visit www.onethingalone.com/advent for family resources to put to work in your own home!

From Pastor Susan Carter Wiggns, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care text from amazon.com



Pastor Susie and the Women's Retreat Planning Team are reading Anne Morrow Lindbergh's 50th Anniversary Edition of Gift from the Sea.

In this beloved classic—graceful, lucid, and lyrical—Anne Morrow Lindbergh draws inspiration from the shells on the shore to share her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude, and contentment as she set them down

during a brief vacation by the sea.

A mother of five, an acclaimed writer, and a pioneering aviator, Lindbergh casts an unsentimental eye on the trappings of modernity that threaten to overwhelm us: the time-saving gadgets that complicate rather than simplify, the multiple commitments that take us from our families. And by recording her thoughts during a brief escape from everyday demands, she helps readers find a space for contemplation and creativity within their own lives.

With a new introduction by Lindbergh's daughter Reeve, this 50th-anniversary edition will give those who are revisiting the book and those who are coming upon it for the first time fresh insight into the life of this remarkable woman and into their own lives.

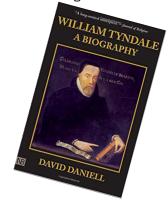
From Laurie Henderson, Director of Communications text from amazon.com

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was the first person to translate the Bible into English from its original Greek and Hebrew and the first to print the Bible in English, which he did in exile. Giving the laity access to the word of God outraged the clerical establishment in England: he was condemned, hunted, and eventually murdered. However, his masterly translation formed the basis of all English Bibles--including the King James Bible, many of whose finest passages were taken unchanged, though unacknowledged, from Tyndale's work.

This important book is the first major biography of Tyndale in sixty years. It sets the story of his life in the intellectual and literary contexts of his immense achievement and explores his influence on the theology, literature, and humanism of Renaissance and Reformation Europe.

Born in England and educated at Oxford, Tyndale was ordained as a priest. When he decided to translate the Bible into English, he realized that it was impossible to do that work in England and moved to Germany, living in exile there and in the Low Countries while he translated and printed first the New Testament and then half of the Old Testament. These were widely circulated-and denounced-in England. Yet Tyndale continued to write from abroad.... He was seized in Antwerp, imprisoned in Vilvoorde Castle near Brussels, and burnt at the stake for heresy in 1536.

Daniell discusses Tyndale's achievement as biblical translator and expositor, analyzes his writing, examines his stylistic influence on writers from Shakespeare to those of the twentieth century, and explores the reasons why he has not been more highly regarded. His book brings to life one of the great geniuses of the age.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT GP

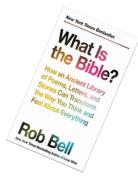
Some Staff Reading Suggestions for the Holidays (continued)

From Pastor Amanda, Youth Minister



Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas

Ecumenical in scope, these fifty devotions invite the reader to contemplate the great themes of Christmas and the significance that the coming of Jesus has for each of us – not only during Advent, but every day. Includes writings by Henri Nouwen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Kathleen Norris, Meister Eckhart, St. Thomas Aquinas, Jane Kenyon, Karl Barth, Oscar Romero, William Willimon, Johann Christoph Arnold, Gail Godwin, Leonardo Boff, Dorothy Day, Brennan Manning, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Annie Dillard, Martin Luther, St. John Chrysostom, C. S. Lewis, Gustavo Gutiérrez, Philip Yancey, Thomas Merton, Eberhard Arnold, T. S. Eliot, John Donne and others.



What Is the Bible?: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything

Author Rob Bell goes deep into the Bible to show how it is more revelatory, revolutionary, and relevant than we ever imagined—and offers a cogent argument for why we need to look at it in a fresh, new way. You cannot get to the holy without going through the human, Bell says. To get to the heart of the Bible's meaning, the reader should be asking: "What's the story that's unfolding here and why did people find it important to tell it? What was it that moved them to record these words? What was happening in the world at that time? What does this passage/story/poem/verse/book reveal about how people understood who they were and who God was at that time?" With What Is the Bible?, Bell recaptures the Good Book's magic and reaffirms its power and inspiration to shape and inspire lives today.



In *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are lack-luster and unproductive—which they don't have to be. We rely too much on routine and the conventions of gatherings when we should focus on distinctiveness and the people involved. At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences, large and small, for work and for play. Parker takes us inside events of all kinds to show what works, what doesn't, and why. She investigates a wide array of gatherings, and the result is a book that's both journey and guide, full of exciting ideas with real-world applications. *The Art of Gathering* will forever alter the way you look at your next meeting, industry conference, dinner party, and backyard barbecue—and how you host and attend them.

From Pastor Will, Minister text from amazon.com



Welcoming the Stranger

World Relief immigration experts Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang move beyond the rhetoric to offer a Christian response to immigration. See page 2 where Pastor Will talks more about this book.





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT GPC

WOMEN AT GPC

Presbyterian Women in December



Circle Meeting will be on December 3 at 10am. We will be studying Lesson 4 in the Horizon Bible study - Love Carved in Stone. Circle 1 - Room UL215, Circle 2 - Room - UL216 and Circle 3 - UL217, and the night

circle will meet at 7pm in the church parlor. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Perrin at sue.perrin@att.net.

We will have a COOKIE SWAP for PW members at the December Circle meeting (December 3). It will take place the morning of Circle at the church. When you come to Circle, please plan to bring (at least) 2 dozen cookies for the swap. You will go home with the same amount, but a varied selection from other bakers' recipes! If you bring more, you can take more home! But, at least 2 dozen, please. Containers will be provided! Please plan to participate in this fun and festive event!

Threads of Love will meet on December 10 from 9:30am-12pm in the sewing room on the first floor of Evans Chapel. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. Sewing is not required as we also need helping hands for other things. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Harris at mah174@yahoo.com or 901-833-1218.

PW Gathering will be on December 17 at 10am in Warren Fellowship Hall. The program will be *Jerold Teachey and Friends* to share some festive and seasonal music.

Food for Project Outreach for December is canned meats, soups, cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Food bins are located in the Activity Center. All are invited to participate with Project Outreach donations.



Welcome New Members:
Liz & Alan Callicott,
Ben, Lucy, & Ruth
4678 Chickasaw Rd
Memphis, 38117
lizcallicott@bellsouth.net
Liz C: 662-292-0919
alan@callicottinsurance.com
Alan C: 662-560-7626

MEN AT GPC

Men's Breakfast

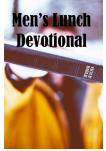
Men's Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 6:30am in Warren Fellowship Hall (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Breakfast starts at 6:30 am (bring \$3) and Bible study at 7:00. Different men lead each week's study using Scripture from the lectionary. Come one, come all!



Men's Lunch Devotions

All men are invited to come as you can on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 11:30 am-12:30 pm at the Paradise Café (6150 Pop-

lar Ave #120). Part of GPC's Men's Ministry, the contact person for this bimonthly lunch study is Anthony Duke (Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com).



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Compass in December Wednesday Night Meals & Programs

December 4:

Presenter: Rev. Dr. LindaJo McKim Subject: "Advent – a time of Preparation"

Source: Dr. McKim

Background: ADVENT! It is a season of hope and anticipation of Christ's birth. But it is more; it is a time when we anticipate Christ's coming to judge the world and establish His rule over all things. We will explore biblical texts and traditions as we look to the future for the fulfillment of the return of God.

December 11: NO FORMAL COMPASS MEETING. It is GPC's Family Christmas Celebration. For complete details, see page 14. ALL are invited to attend and enjoy our children's talents.

END OF FIRST SEMESTER

Plans for the second semester, beginning in early January 2020, will include Tom Cates (law & ethics), Jerold Teachey (sacred music), Stephanie Wall (grief support), GPC missions (local and world), discipleship, guest presenters, Rev. Wiggins' Lenten series and Roscoe Phillips' "Bible Jeopardy." Please stay tuned for the precise schedule.

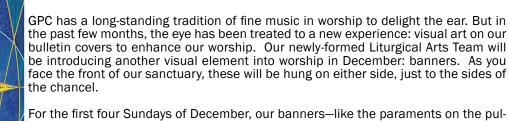
Compass programs begin with supper at 5:30pm (\$7 per person – reservations required). The programs run from 6:15 to 7:00pm and will be in the Warren Fellowship Hall. Please make a reservation for supper EACH week, either by signing the friendship pad in church or by phoning the church

office (901-754-5195) before noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday night Compass meeting.

Liturgical Arts News

By Alex Benford

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what has been prepared for those who love God." 1 Corinthians 2:9

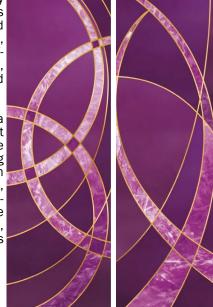


For the first four Sundays of December, our banners—like the paraments on the pulpit and lectern—will be purple for the season of Advent. In a season filled with red

Santa suits and green Christmas trees, it may seem incongruous, but the purple reminds us that Advent is a time of reflection, prayer, and anticipation in the Church. On Christmas Eve, the purple banners will be replaced with a different design featuring the Star of Bethlehem, which will proclaim the birth of the Christ child through Epiphany!

Worship planning seeks to create a cohesive experience, from the image that greets you on the bulletin cover, the words we speak in our call to worship, the songs we sing together, to the words we hear preached from the pulpit. The liturgical arts—music, visual art, the paraments, the beautifully arranged flow-

ers, the bread baked for communion, etc.—exist to sanctify our space and time together and enhance our worship. So come, look, listen, taste, and see what God, the great artist and sculptor of the mountains, has in store for the worship arts at GPC!



THEATER FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Theater Fellowship Group is going to GPAC for the Germantown Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 14 at 7pm.

Join the Germantown Symphony Orchestra for this annual holiday tradition. The GSO will perform holiday favorites, and the opening chorus of Vivaldi's *Gloria* with a combined chorus of Memphis Choral Arts. Germantown Chorus, and Houston High School Choirs. The performance will end with a much-beloved sing-along.

A longstanding Germantown tradition, this sellout event is sure to inspire your holiday spirit with good music and a real sense of community.

Conveners: Sandy and Gerald Wilson email: grwilson755@yahoo.com or call 901-755-2067.

We will go to Sandy and Gerald's before the concert at 5pm for snacks and fellowship. Please call or email them if you can attend.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join the GPC family on Sunday, December 15, at 3:30pm for the annual caroling and chili cook-off!

At 3:30pm, buses will take two groups to various locations to spread the Christmas spirit through song.

Caroling not your thing? No problem. Feel free to join us at 5:30 to warm up with some delicious chili!

Do you have a greater love for singing than chili? Come join us in song and you are free to leave as you please!



Meanwhile, we will be accepting crockpots of your best chili recipes in Warren Fellowship Hall to be enjoyed upon return of the carolers.

THINK YOU HAVE A WINNING CHILL RECIPE?

Whether you are part of a fellowship group or Sunday school class and want to come up with a team of chili masters, or you are confident to compete alone, everyone is welcome! Let's make this interesting!!

We'd also like to make it fun for the kids by including a dessert competition. They can provide their favorite Christmas cookies or sweet treat!

We ask that you bring \$1 bills as a way of voting for your favorite. All money collected will be donated to our Room In the Inn associates.

If you already know you'll be cooking the winning chili or have any questions, feel free to contact Laura Brown at LLBROWN88@GMAIL.COM.

Honored special guests at this event are GPC's new members from 2018 and 2019.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT GPC

Happy 90th Birthday, Jack Losa

GPC member, Jack Losa recently celebrated his 90th birthday with family in the new Warren Fellowship Hall. If you or your family would like to use the space, contact Ann in the office at 901-754-5195 or office@germantownpres.org.









VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Do you like to take pictures? GPC is looking for some volunteers that might enjoy taking pictures of special events in the life of the church and sending them to the Communications Office for publication. If you would be interested, email communications@germantownpres.org.

SPECIAL NE

MILESTONES - A LO

By Monic



Wow! This is the last newsletter for 2019 – where has the year gone?!! It has certainly been a busy one for your special needs ministry. Here is a look back at what this past year has held as we continue to

serve the special needs community.

January brought the unique opportunity to share with the greater business community as yours truly was the guest speaker at the Germantown Chamber of Commerce. The feedback was tremendous, and the entire staff stepped up to invite our business neighbors to join us in worship and fellowship at 2363 S. Germantown Road!

February found us on the other side of the world as we joined Accessible Hope International on a two-week mission trip to Sierra Leone, Africa, serving women with disabilities by giving them valuable job training skills.

The Activity Center took on a different look in March as the entire space was filled with racks of prom dresses and rows of sewing machines as we were the host site for DressFest 2019. Scores of girls came to select a dress to wear to the Memphis Joy Prom. GPC's volunteer base showed up



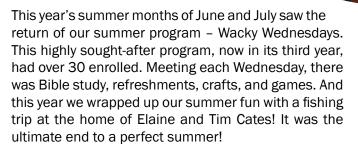
and showed out as they lent their skills as personal shoppers and made alterations sending each girl away with the perfect dress. Not to be overlooked, the guys were measured and fitted for tuxedos and GPC, through

their generous giving, paid for each and every tuxedo rental.

April brought "One Enchanted Evening" via the Memphis Joy Prom as we continued our partnership with this event now in its 6th year. With 250 prom participants registered and another 850 volunteers, the

Memphis Joy Prom is no doubt the largest event serving the special needs community in the Greater Memphis Area, and GPC gets to play a huge part!

The month of May saw the culmination of many hours of hard work as our AMPlify music program held their Spring Performance to the delight of a rather large audience. Every Thursday GPC offers two classes of Orff instruction under the supervision of Noel Wilkins. The results are outstanding as each participant learns to amplify their voice, their heart, and their witness for His glory!



In August we rolled out a new weekday program called "Friendship Circle." Constructed as a "lunch and learn" series, every Wednesday individuals with exceptional needs come with their caregivers and their lunches in hand. A time of food and fellowship is followed by a Bible study entitled "Character by God's Design." The day is then rounded out with an activity – a craft, or a game, or a new skill set, or an outreach project. Several church members have been our honored guests leading the activity time and expanded our outreach to bring us flower arranging, art projects, magic shows, and gardening skills.

September reminded us of programming taking place all year long – our consistent attendance in Sunday school as we serve children and adults with special learning styles as well as our monthly Parents' Night Out program called "Breathe" that provides much-needed respite for caregivers. This program occurs on the second Friday of every month,

EDS AT GPC

OK BACK AT 2019

a Kirby

In October we were the host location for the *Theology of Disability Training* offered by Accessible Hope International. We had national and international guests in attendance as they took a Biblical look at God's view of individuals with disabilities during a four-day training event. We also continued our partnership with JoyLife901 hosting a costume party with over 80 in attendance on campus. And then off campus, we participated in a Special Needs Trunk-or-Treat through our partnership with Germantown Park and Recreation handing out over 140 gift bags to the special needs community.

During November our fall AMPlify program expanded as the Music Ministry of GPC gifted us with guitars, new mallets, and some adaptive equipment. Lessons on Thursdays continue to provide a chance for those in attendance to explore and share their gifts and talents. Watch for their winter performance coming up on Thursday, December 12 at 10:30am in the GPC sanctuary.

For more information on GPC's Special Needs Ministry,

please contact Monica Kirby at monicak@ germantownpres.org.



As we have strived to bring Him honor and glory, the year 2019 has truly been a full one.

Looking forward to all that 2020 holds!



THANK YOU TO NOVEMBER'S 5TH-GRADE WORSHIP LEADER, DARCY LESTER

The Fifth Grade Bridge program exists to guide kids as they begin to live their lives of faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage friendships among one another, to actively participate in church life, and to transition successfully to GPC youth. Throughout the year you will see 5th graders reading scripture in worship, participating in retreats and fellowship activities, gathering to meet junior high students, mentoring younger GPCKids at VBS, and serving through Mission 901. Questions about this program can be directed to Anna White, Director of Children's Ministry (annaw@germantownpres. org). November's 5th Grade Worship Leader is Darcy Lester.

What is your full name? Darcy Anna Lester
Who are your parents? Deranda and Caleb Lester
Where do you go to school? Dogwood Elementary
What have you most enjoyed doing at GPC? My favorite thing at GPC is choir and bells.

What have you learned at GPC? I have learned new Bible stories. In the future what do you hope to experience at GPC? I want to keep making new friends and learning.

On This Very Christmas Night



All are invited to attend "A Very Christmas Night" on Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. GPCKids will present songs and scripture readings they learned by participating in this year's Christmas study. You will enjoy hearing "Mary Had a Baby," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and "Christmas Canon." Following the presentation, dinner will be held in Warren Fellowship Hall with crafts and Christmas Sweets Dessert Bar to follow. Crafts, fun, and fellowship for children will follow dinner! Please email Ann DeVere (annd@germantownpres.org) to make your dinner reservation.

Children's Ministry email list:
If you want to receive a weekly informational email from
the GPCKids Ministry with all the latest news and updates,
contact Anna White at children@germantownpres.org and
ask to be put on the list.

CHILDREN AT GPC

KNOW GOD RETREAT FOR 4th & 5th Graders

Brrrrr....It was a COLD 4th and 5th grade retreat this year at Pinecrest, but that did not not stop this fun loving bunch!

A night hike, bonfire, s'mores, songs, games, cabin fun, and a GPS treasure hunt with TREASURES made for a perfect mix at Pinecrest for these GPCKids to come together as friends. Time was devoted to God through a devotional book, *Over the Fence, Adventures in Friendship*. This age-appropriate devotional book went home with each child and is the perfect devotional for them to explore how God wants them to experience the true meaning of friendship. A big thank you to Martin Veazey for chaperoning our boys' cabin, and a big thank you to Anna White and Pastor Amanda for chaperoning the girls' cabin.













MISSIONS & OUTREACH AT GPC

Christmas Eve Giving Challenge

As many of you will recall, for the past five Christmas Eves, GPC has issued a Christmas Eve giving challenge and invited everyone to participate. In the effort to make the spirit of Christmas more about generosity in service to Christ the newborn King, and less about material possessions, we have dedicated 100% of the offering given in our Christmas Eve services to two local mission partners. We'll do the same thing this year.

The challenge goes something like this: we match anything we spend on gifts for our families and friends with the donation we give on Christmas Eve.

The GPC body is historically lavish in gift-giving, so thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Cottonwood Headstart Halloween Party



Thanks, GPC, for volunteering,

Room in the Inn Volunteers & Donations Needed!



As Room in the Inn (RITI) approaches its 2nd year at GPC for the 2019-20 season, we are looking for new volunteers to join our team! This is a perfect time to jump in and get involved, you guys!

We have 10 nights of service this year. We host every 2nd and 4th Saturday night from November 1 - March 31. And we want you!

If you've always wanted to be involved in this ministry, NOW IS YOUR TIME! We'll be having a fun volunteer training session in early January to help familiarize all volunteers with how RITI runs and operates on a nightly basis! Join others and become one of the dedicated volunteers to help show the love of Jesus as we minister to the homeless. You will be far more blessed than the guests we serve.

Thanks! and we're excited to meet you and work with you this year. Susan Shirley Hurt (susanshirleyhurt@gmail.com)

Needed RITI donations below.

Please note we can no longer accept travel size donations.

Toiletries
foot powder
nail clippers
razors
full size shampoo &
conditioner
shaving cream
depends (generic) all sizes
tampons (generic) all sizes
panty liners and maxi pads
(generic) - all sizes
full size lotion
ear plugs

Outerwear & Underwear back packs (dark colors) rain ponchos hand warmers gloves winter hats & scarves men's/women's warm socks scrub pants in S-XXXL men's white briefs - S-XXXL men's boxer briefs - S-XXXL men's white tee shirts -S-XXXL women's underwear - 5-16 OTC meds (generic only) Advil cough drops bandaids Neosporin Benadryl

House supplies laundry detergent (generic) dryer sheets (generic) zip lock bags all sizes larger trash bags

Bring all donations to the blue bin marked RITI in the Activity Center Lobby.

And if you want to help by donating money, make a check out to GPC with RITI in the memo line.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT GPC

GPC's Women's Retreat

The theme of the women's retreat this year was Wise and Worthy Women of the Word. Pastor Susie used the stories of Biblical women to help participants hear their own stories in the story God is telling. For the weekend, prayer partners called Soul Sisters were randomly chosen and paired. If you missed it this year, plan to set aside the first weekend in November next year for this special time.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT GPC

Don't forget your year-end gifts! For your budgeting purposes, you can give to GPC for fiscal year 2019 through the end of day on Tuesday, December 31. If you have any questions about year-end giving and how your charitable gifts can benefit your favorite charity and also work for you, please contact the church business office at 901-754-5195 and ask for Debbi or Fred.

GPC's Churchwide Advent Reading

During this holy season of Advent, we are invited to pray and contemplate as we remember Jesus' command epitomized by Matthew 25:31–46 to love one another and care for the "least of these" — our brothers and sisters who are hungry, thirsty, alone, and otherwise burdened or suffering.

This year's devotional from Presbyterians Today is very special. The Rev. Sherry Blackman, a Presbyterian pastor, chaplain, and award-winning writer and poet, challenges us to fill our days of Advent with simple, practical, and loving deeds that help our neighbors — calling each act of kindness a "piece of straw" for the manger to make a soft bed for the Christ child when He arrives on Christmas.

Each day of the devotional features a Scripture excerpt, meditation, and prayer to deepen the Advent experience. Each week also features a space for journaling — perhaps a place where you can jot down your good deeds for the coming week.

Copies are available in the church office, in the narthex, in the AC lobby, and in the Welcome Center.



GPC's GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY & THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are upon us, and although joyful, they can add stress and elevate emotions in each of us. For those of us who are grieving the loss of loved ones, the holidays can be extremely stressful, emotional, and overwhelming. The emotions tied to grief can be elevated in us whether our loss is recent or occurred in the past. We may find ourselves more emotional than usual as the holidays approach; we may begin to feel anxious that the holidays are coming and there is no way to stop them; we may be struggling with how to get through; we may be torn about whether or not to keep treasured traditions or start new ones. All of these are normal reactions as we work to live our lives without our deceased loved ones and to balance joyful times with family and friends.

In recognition of the potential difficulties that many face during the holidays, the Grief Support Ministry is offering opportunities for GPC members and visitors, as well as to those in the greater community, to come

together for encouragement, prayer and suggestions for ways to best navigate the holidays. This support group regularly meets on the second Thursday of each month. Please consider join-



ing us on Thursday, December 12 from 6-7:30pm in the church parlor. We also invite you to join us on Sunday, December 15, from 4-5pm in historic Evans Chapel, for Loss, Healing, and Hope: A Blue Christmas Service. Contact for more information: the church office (901-754-5195) or Stephanie Wall, Certified Grief Counselor, American Academy of Grief Counseling and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, Grief Recovery Institute (901-494-7786), Beth Brock (beth.coleman.brock@gmail.com, 901-355-0262), Linda Oakes (linoakes@bellsouth.net, 901-237-6566).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT GPC

Loss, Healing, and Hope



Loss, Healing, and Hope: A Blue Christmas Service Sunday, December 15, 2019 4:00pm historic Evans Chapel Germantown Presbyterian Church

The Advent/Christmas season is one of wonder. For so many it is a time of hopeful anticipation as we await the coming of the Christ Child. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for Christmas lights, tinsel, and music, which are in abundance everywhere we turn. But for many of us, this season of Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was and will never be again. A worship service dedicated to acknowledging our mixed bag of emotions during this season is a blessing to each one of us who takes the time to rest in the love of Christ with others who feel the very same way. If this is you, or a friend or loved one, Loss, Healing, and Hope: A Blue Christmas

Service is designed with you in mind. In this worship service we will quietly acknowledge our sense of loss, remember our loved ones, share empathy for those around us, know that, with God in Christ Jesus, there is healing and hope, and celebrate communion. We welcome you to come and worship God with us on Sunday afternoon, December 15 at 4:00pm in GPC's historic Evans Chapel. Just come; come.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET

Items in our Medical Supply closet are available to borrow for members of the congregation. These items can be checked out through the church office by calling 901-754-5195. We have canes, walkers, crutches, shower safety stools, portable toilets, and even a hospital bed. Donations of more medical equipment, especially wheelchairs, are always welcome.



GPC's CREATIVE BLESSINGS FOR SHARING



All year, but especially during the Christmas season, GPC offers you creative ways to bless your neighbors, friends, and famlies. GPC is very blessed with extremely creative

women who graciously create wonderful items that they intend to be shared with those in need. Our pastors are the primary "givers" of these items as they make pastoral visits, but they are available for anyone in the congregation to take to anyone in need of these expressions of comfort, care, and love. These items include:

- Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets made by Paula's Hearts & Hands Sunday School class.
- Prayer Blankets, Adult Bibs, Mastectomy and Heart Surgery Pillows, Catheter Bag Covers, Walker Bags, Chemo Caps, - made by Threads of Love of Presbyterian Women.
- Casseroles & Soups made by Cooking for Missions of Presbyterian Women.

• Flower arrangements – made by Petals & Prayers Flower Ministry.

If you know someone in need of any of these items, you are welcome to stop by the church and pick one up. There are "sign-out" sheets at each location. Please note both who the giver and the recipient are, as well as the date.

- The Prayer Shawls are located on the shelves in UL-214 (upper level).
- The Prayer Blankets and other items made by Threads of Love are located in the chest-ofdrawers on the south hallway between the Activity Center lobby and the Welcome Center and are well-labeled in each drawer.
- The Flower arrangements are located in the Flower Room cooler (just behind the sanctuary).
- The Casseroles (2-3 servings) and Soups (2 servings) are located in the Activity Center Kitchen in the big freezer (note: the freezer door is difficult to open pull hard!).

The Presbytery of the Mid-South welcomes The Reverend James L. Gale, Jr., Executive Presbyter

The Presbytery of the Mid-South has called James L. Gale, Jr.to be the next Executive Presbyter for The Presbytery of the Mid-South. He comes to us with exceptional credentials and a heart for the church.

- Associate Synod Executive for Synod of Mid-America
- Director of Operations and Program Assistant for Synod of Mid-America
- Certificate of Executive Leadership, McCormick Seminary
- Masters of Divinity, Columbia Theological Seminary
- Faculty, Mid-America Lincoln Trails Interim Training (MALT)
- Pastor, Shawnee Presbyterian Church Shawnee, Kansas
- Pastor, Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Kinston, North Carolina
- Supply Pastor, Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Kinston, North Carolina
- Youth Director, Gordon Street Christian Church, Kinston, North Carolina
- Presbytery of Northern Kansas, Presbytery Heartland Presbytery Boundary/Social Media Training Instructor
- Missouri Union Boundary and Social Media Training Instructor, Heartland Presbytery
- Staff, PC(USA) Interim Ministry Training
- Synod Transitional Ministry Training Instructor
- Church Planting and Revitalization Committee Heartland Presbytery
- President, Secretary, and Board Member, Church Development Corporation
- Moderator, Stewardship Committee, Heartland Presbytery
- Curriculum Developer and Instructor of Swanigan Scholars Executive Leadership Development Program, Synod of Mid-America
- Alternate PC(USA) General Assembly for Heartland Presbytery

"James has the exceptional ability to identify issues that are of primary concern. He helps people to focus and find solutions for that issue. He is adept at identifying people to work alongside with and develop teams to effectively achieve goals."

The Reverend Jason Carle, Pastor Overland Park Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, Kansas

"James can articulate vision and views criticism as an opportunity for growth and development. He is adept at working with a variety of cultures and encouraging different ways to see things. He seeks resources and is a great teacher. He does not lead 'alone.' He leads the charge." The Reverend Jerrod Lowry, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

The Reverend James Luther Gale, Jr. and the Reverend Mary Newberg Gale with their daughters, Ainsley (age 11) and Fiona (age 6) will be moving to Memphis from Shawnee, Kansas. He will begin his work for the Presbytery on Monday, January 6, 2020. Please begin to pray for James, Mary, and their girls as they follow God's call to the Mid-South to work and pray with all of us that the Kingdom of Heaven will be made visible through the ministry of our churches and our presbytery.

Thank you to GPC's own Reverend Susan Carter Wiggins for participating on the nominating committee that chose to call him and for their prayers and diligence throughout this entire process.





Hi Friends,

We are continuing to study God's Word in Sunday school, and the youth are enjoying growing in their faith. The junior high youth will be studying the gospels of Matthew and Luke and how Jesus came in to the world. The confirmation class is learning about worship and beginning work on their faith statements. The senior high youth will be exploring Jesus' love for them in the gospel of Matthew.

December dates:

December 1 - Youth Worship Service in the Chapel: dinner 5pm in Warren Hall, worship 6-7pm December 4 - Compass at Panera, 6-7pm December 11 - Compass at Panera, 6-7pm December 15 - Church-wide Christmas caroling

and chili cook-off

December 18 - Compass at Panera, 6-7pm-last one of the year!

December 22 - No Youth Group- Xmas break December 29 - No Youth Group- Xmas break

Grace and Peace,



IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation:

- >Gay Beaumont
- >Shirley Billups
- >Sherril & Jim Blair
- >Huddy & Bayard Boyle
- >Elaine & Tom Cates
- >Joyce Cochran
- >Virginia Dickinson
- >Judy & Fred Frick
- >Susan & Michael Gyura
- >Nancy & Peter Hawkinson
- >Roy Hendrix
- >Jean & Bob Hicks

- **Dot Ledlow
- >Aggie & Jack Losa
- >Willa Lowry
- >Boyd Maize
- >Meredith Mattila
- >Debbie Moseley
- >Mack Pepper

- >Barb Poier
- >Erin & Thomas Powell
- >Jackie & Bill Ruleman
- >Scott Ruleman
- >Jan Thomson
- >Patti Tracey

- >Amanda Walters
- >Woodie Whited, Johnathan, & Sandy Franks
- >Margaret Williams

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to: the family of Frank Williams.

In Service in the Military:

Sidney Baker - niece of Kay & Joe Donaho Kyle Bishop - grandson of Brenda Bishop Trip Hiller - grandson of Anne & Wayne Tansil Johnny Nowell - son of Jo & Adm. John Nowell Patrick Peak - son of Eleanor Denton Jason Ragain - son of Debbie Ragain

From Room in the Inn Ministry

Past Guests

Bert, Charles, Douglas, Fred, Howard, Johnnie, Kenny, Kristen, Lois, Orson, Roger, Rosaland, and Tyronne

GPC Friends & Family Prayer Ministry

- **Frances Blackwell grandmother of Anna White
- **Julie Bland daughter of Mary & Rodney Strop
- >Lynne & Martin Briggs friends of Phyl Simmons
- >Elaine Brown mother of Cheri Howle
- >Thomas Canale father of Bob Bobo's neighbor
- >family of Liz Cayce
- **Jacque Clift friend of Diane Callahan

- >Hillary Fechter daughterin-law of Kathy Veazey's neighbor
- **Pat Fox mother of friend of Sherrie Horner
- >Jay Gray friend of Julie & Matthew Lindow
- >Susan Hawkins daughter of Ann Phillips
- **Roy Hill brother of Walter Hill
- >John Howle son of Cheri & Mike Howle
- >Jen & Bobby Ireland, sons,

- Nick & Matt neighbors of Bob Bobo
- **Debbye Jensen cousin of Jeanie Hill
- **LaLisa Lindemann daughter of Dot Ledlow
- **Rev. Philomena Ofori-Naaph - sister/friend/ colleague of Pator Susie
- >Ginger & Thomas Payne, daughter Tori, Ginger's parents, Myra & Dale friends of Sherrie & Neal Horner

- **Shane Stanford pastor at Christ Methodist Church
- >William Steven, son of Hayley Steven - friend of Susan Shirley Hurt
- >Dr. J. Charles Taylor & family partner of Bob Bobo
- >Kila Tripp daughter of Cindy & Rick Tripp
- >Jerry Wilson, Sr. father of Jerry Wilson

**Indicates new request added since last month.

Friends and family requests submitted to the office for prayer will remain for 30 days before being removed. If you notice someone you requested prayer for is no longer on the list, simply notify the office, and they will be placed back on the list.

December GPC Family Prayer Ministry

Dec 1
Jean & Ray Carroll
Kelly & Richard Fast,
Carter, Jordan
Virginia Herrin
Anne & George McGaha
Elizabeth & Don Powell
Bobbie Ann & Steven
Spangler, Cambria,
Judah, Madison

Dec 8
Tommy Adair
Patsy & Jim Carson
Sally & Chris Fienup,
Jo, Lola
Erin & Thomas Powell,
Hayden
Jean & Bill Priester
Martha Stanley

Dec 15 Beth & Gray Carter, Will Ann DeVere Sydney & Bob McLean Becky Stanley Peggy Whitaker Carl Woods

Dec 22
Carolyn & Taylor Cates,
Amelia, Campbell,
Thomas
Debbie & Noel Florendo
Sherrie & Neal Horner
Kelli & Robert Ratton
Erwin & Wes Westmoreland

Dec 29
Patti & David Bradford
Elaine & Tom Cates
Cindy & Doug Geyer,
Meredith
Macie Houston
Diane Stearns
Beth & Don Willingham,
Allie, Katherine

MEMORIALS

During the month of October GPC received the following honorarium and memorial gifts.

Flower Fund	In Memory of	In Memory of	Music Fund
In memory of	Francis Carter	Fred Stearns	In Honor of
Carolyn Hayward	Anonymous	Penny & James	Jennie Fulmer
Lalla & John Colmer	In memory of	Keras	Lalla & John Colmer
Building Fund	Martha Fluker	In Memory of	In Memory of
In memory of	Paula Stack	Bud Webb	Jean Gillespie
Fred Stearns		Lea Davis	Lalla Mellor
Mickie & Steve	In Memory of	Martha Day	THE RESERVE
Nabers	Jean Gillespie	"CON 1889"	In Memory of
	Becky Stanley	In Memory of Mary	Fred Stearns
Memorial Fund		Lou Woods	Becky & John Barton
In Memory of	In memory of	Dixie & Bob Johnson	Lalla Mellor
Al Baker	Carolyn Hayward		A 1600 1879
Anonymous	Becky & John Barton	In Memory of	In Memory of Mary
Dixie & Bob Johnson		Barbara Wright	Lou Woods
	In Memory of	Lea Davis	Lalla Mellor
In Memory of	Dennis Marshall		ASSETTING THE
Pat Beard	Becky & John Barton		
Kay & David Collins	Martha Day		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

GPC Budget Update

GPC Financial Summary, October 2019

	Oct. 2019 2019 YTD	Oct. 2018 2018 YTD
Revenue	\$ 177,022 \$ 1,459,923	\$177,936 \$ 1,300,736
Expenses	\$ 136,107 \$ 1,438,654	\$118,001 \$ 1,303,798
Net	\$ 40,915 \$ 21,269	\$ 59,935 \$ (3,062)

Revenue for October was \$177,022 – about the same as October 2018. Expenses of \$136,107 produced a surplus of \$40,915 for the month and returned our YTD surplus to a positive \$21,269. While we are where we expected to be at the end of October, we have historically seen significant contributions in November and December. We need to maintain that level of giving this year in order to make our budget.

Contributions to *Building Tomorrow Today* were \$16,784 in October. We paid \$145,780 in expenses and will have another \$58,000 in expenses when our contractor finishes their punch list, and we are required to pay the retainage (holdback). That payment should finish our obligations under the contract. We still have \$669,000 in pledges that should be paid by May of next year. The requirement for monthly payments on the principal of our loan begins in February of 2021, and every dollar we can pay in addition to our interest payments will reduce both our monthly principal payments and our interest expense in future years.

GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2363 S GERMANTOWN RD GERMANTOWN TN 38138

рн: 901/754-5195 Fx: 901/754-6961

WWW.GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG

Worship Times: 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday

WILLIAM G. JONES PASTOR

SUSAN CARTER WIGGINS ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE

AMANDA MACKEY ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

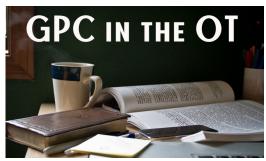
Tom Sauer Pastor to Senior Adults JEROLD TEACHEY
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

ALEX BENFORD
ORGANIST/HANDBELL DIRECTOR

Anna White Director of Children's Ministry

MONICA KIRBY DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

January Window Deadline: December 10



December Readings

Week of:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12-1-19	Jer 51-52	Lam 1-5	Eze 1-5	Eze 6-11	Eze 12-16	Eze 17-22
12-8-19	Eze 23-28	Eze 29-35	Eze 36-43	Eze 44-48	Dan 1-5	Dan 6-10
12-15-19	Dan 11-12	Hos 1-3	Hos 4-14	Joel 1-3	Amos 1-4	Amos 5-9
12-22-19	Oba 1-Jon 4	Mic 1-7	Nah 1-3	Hab 1-3	Zph 1-3	Hag 1-2
12-29-19	Zch 1-6	Zch 7-14	Mal 1-4	Catch-up day	Catch-up day	Catch-up day

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE READ THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT.



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