



THE WINDOW

A Publication of Germantown Presbyterian Church

January 2020

The Resolution Issue

Resolve

verb: to come to a definite or earnest decision about; determine (to do something); to resolve on a plan of action.

noun: firmness of purpose or intent; determination.



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H

*D*ear GPC Family and Friends,

How is your vision at the start of this New Year of 2020? Each of us visits the eye doctor periodically to have our vision checked, to make sure our eyes are healthy, and to take care of any issues or problems with our vision. Every time I go for a vision check, I am amazed at some of the tests now available and what they reveal. One such test is the “eye-puff” exam – where a machine blows a puff of air for a micro-second against your eyeball. This tests the pressure inside your eye in order to reveal glaucoma. My eye doctor conducts other tests that have little to do with my actual eyesight - tests that reveal diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, head tumors, and more. Who knew an eye test could reveal all of these? We have a saying that the “eyes are the windows to the soul.” Now we know the eyes are windows into the heart, the head, and the whole body!

In 2014-2015 GPC hired TAG Consulting Group to lead our church in the creation of a Strategic Vision for Ministry (SVM) for our church. Chris Joyner was our consultant, and he led church members and staff through many fact-finding and faith-finding endeavors. We conducted surveys among church members, did demographic studies of Germantown and the surrounding community, held personal interviews with focus groups and church members, and had several visioning retreats among church leaders.

I cannot believe it has been five years since we created our SVM that has guided us for the most recent season of our church life. The SVM produced these five Core Values that we hold dear at GPC – they are part of our church DNA: 1. Trust in God’s Enduring Faithfulness; 2. Unity: Communion over Controversy; 3. Honoring our Important Moments; 4. Transformative Education; and 5. A Generous Spirit.

The SVM also laid out several areas where we would make goals and measure progress in our common life together: 1. Hospitality; 2. Mentoring; 3. Local School Partnership; 4. Ministering to People with Special Needs; and 5. Communication and Technology.

The larger SVM outlines each of these areas in much more detail and with more description, and I would be happy to provide a copy of this for you if you want to know more about each Core Value and Ministry Area Goal.



Now, in 2020, it is time to have our vision checked again. Your Elders, Deacons, and staff will be assessing the current SVM to see where we have had good success that we want to celebrate. We will also review our shortcomings and failures in some areas. What has held us back from accomplishing some of our goals? Where should we have allocated more resources to achieving our goals? Where did we succeed beyond our expectations and why?

In early February, the Deacons, Elders, and staff will have a one-day retreat to focus intently on our vision as a church. We will seek much feedback and ideas on what to keep, what to tweak, what to change, and what to trash. After this retreat, a small group of leaders will fine-tune another Strategic Vision for Ministry for the larger bodies to refine and approve later in the spring.

Just as it is important to have 2020 vision for our eyes, so also is great vision essential for our church in 2020. I look forward to this process of “checking our vision” to see how we can be constantly growing and improving in our faithfulness to Christ in our common life together as a church.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace in Christ,

Will

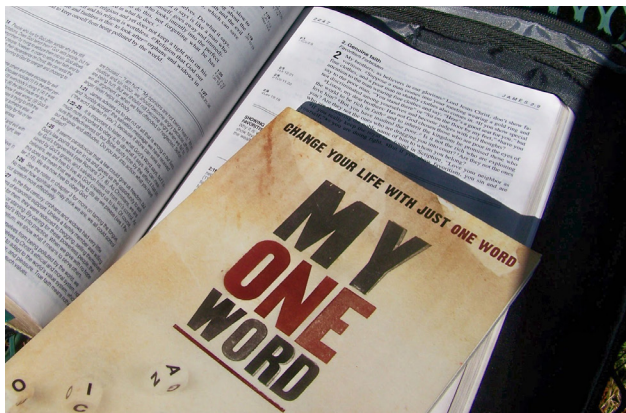


The concept of *My One Word* is simple. Lose the long list of resolutions—all your sweeping promises to change—and do something about one thing this year instead of nothing about everything. Choose just one word that represents what you most hope God will do in you, and focus on it for an entire year. This single act will force clarity and concentrate your efforts. As you focus on your word over an extended period of time, you position yourself for

Resolve

God to form your character at a deep, sustainable level. Growth and change will result.

Throughout this book you'll find words and stories of people just like you who have joined the *My One Word* movement and discovered the power of just one word. You can buy the book online or check out a copy from the GPC library.



HOW WILL YOU RESOLVE TO START YOUR NEW YEAR?

**HOW ABOUT FINDING A PLACE TO PLUG IN FOR YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY THIS YEAR?**

SAVE THESE DATES

Sunday, January 5, 9:40am - Adult Sunday School Fellowship, Coffee,
New Class Intro

Wednesday, January 8, 12:00pm Friendship Circle resumes;
5:30-7:00pm - Compass Meals & Programming Return

Thursday, January 9, 9:30am & 4:00pm, AMPlify resumes

Friday, January 10, 6:30pm - breathe (Parents' Night Out)

Fri-Sat, January 10-11 - Confirmation Retreat at Pinecrest

Sunday, January 12, 5:30pm - GPC Youth Family Cookout

Sunday, January 26, 12:00pm - Annual Congregational Meeting

Choir

A Stop Along the Way

*By Barbara
Ragsdale*

A single line of people silently files into the sanctuary to fill the choir loft, top row first, purple stoles over gleaming gold robes. It is Advent Sunday. Gathered among this group over the years have been students from the University of Memphis, Rhodes College, and LeMoyne-Owen College as well as apprentices from Opera Memphis. The faces change with the seasons, September and January, the beginning of new college semesters and the demanding opera seasons.

At times their bodies are exhausted from hectic school priorities, rehearsals that last until the wee hours, and multiple performances of the finished product, their voices strained and overworked from telling stories in song and costume. Still, they agree to add their voices to the GPC choir, to enhance our worship and to inspire the congregation through solos.

They visit GPC for a while and are welcomed by the choir as friends. When they leave it's understood that their time with GPC is only a pause in their career. Singers must go where there are opportunities, both domestic and international. Their chosen profession requires travel to auditions, moves to new locations for short periods of time, and the difficult search for affordable living accommodations. The expenses mount up quickly.

Drawing upon his own memories as a student struggling to afford a career, Jerold Teachey has fostered a concept at GPC like the one offered to him when it was most needed. A church reached out to him with an offer - sing with our choir and receive financial support. Considered part of their "outreach ministry," students were encouraged to add their voices in worship and were provided relief from some financial burden.

Many gifted students have benefited from the music ministry at GPC. By the judicious use of budget monies and the generosity of GPC members who have contributed to the Music Fund and/or the Teachey Scholarship Fund, Jerold and GPC have quietly engaged in an outreach ministry with a far-reaching impact. Some participants will choose not to sing professionally but will fill the much-needed roles of church musicians, choir directors, organists, composers, and teachers for the next generation.

According to Jerold, "We have been blessed to assist them financially as they shared their talents with us in worship. But more importantly the aspiring musicians become a part of the choir family, the members embrace them, invite them into their homes, and keep in touch with them for years after they depart."

Jerold receives emails and letters from parents to thank both him and GPC for creating a home-away-from-home for their children. In emergencies, when families are hundreds of miles away, the GPC staff and choir members are ready to assist when needed. Traumatic events such as automobile accidents, apartment burglaries, and severe illnesses with hospitalization, and GPC has been there to help, a bridge between anxiety and calm.

These young friends often ask to remain on the choir contact list after leaving and even want to sing with the choir whenever they travel back to the area. They file into the choir loft as though they had never left.

In the desire to sing professionally, their quest will lead them far and wide to accept singing engagements with opera companies, symphonies, and choral organizations around the country. Dane Suarez had his 2015 national debut with the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center. Christine Amon has pursued musical theatre and performed with Opera Memphis and Nashville Opera. She was also a finalist in the Lotte Lenya Competition. Just this year, tenor Limmie Pulliam and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Doche were two of the featured stars in the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's opening 2019-20 season of Opera Classics.

But not all of our students leave. Some remain because Memphis is their home. Chelsea Miller has traveled to Alaska to perform in *HMS Pinafore* and to Ohio as leading lady in Bernstein's *Candide*, but she continues to sing with the GPC choir when her schedule permits.

Marcus King, whose resume includes performances in Norfolk, England and Japan, sings with us regularly between his engagements. He recently joined Kallen Esperian in the Christmas concert *Sounds of the Season* and thrilled the audience with his commanding rendition of *Rise Up Shepherd and Follow!* During worship he has whispered the haunting, contemplative *Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*.

These are just a few of the many singers who have filled the GPC sanctuary with their voices and benefitted from the warmth and fellowship of the music ministry. It is a rewarding experience to know that GPC has ministered to the students and performers in pursuit of their education and professional career. The influence GPC has had on their lives is learned from the cards sent to say thanks or the emails bringing updates about the next steps in their career.

For the twenty-six years that Jerold Teachey has served as music director at GPC, the choir and congregation have been a brief stop along the way for many students as they pursued a singing life. GPC is richer for their presence and blessed for the opportunity to minister to them in a unique way. What a blessing to pull them into the life of GPC, to wish them well when it's time to leave, and to offer silent prayers for their safe journeys! Then the choir waits with open arms for the next wayfaring stranger and another song of worship. The ministry continues.

***Sing to the Lord a
new song
because His love
endures forever.***



NEW SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES STARTING

All Sunday morning classes resume on January 12, 9:30am-10:30am.

All of these groups offer a powerful way to come to know the Lord a little more.

January 5 from 9:40-10:00 in Warren Hall all adult Sunday School classes will meet for fellowship and coffee before hearing briefly from class leaders about their topics for the winter and spring. This gathering will give newcomers a chance to learn more about GPC Sunday school and see where they want to plug in.

Psalm 78 MFXS

Coordinator: Kevin Floyd
Room: UL215 (2nd level)

Psalm 78 class is a group of parents with mostly school-aged children who meet for weekly study and fellowship. Guest teacher Tom Cates will examine certain ethical questions through a Christian lens on Sundays in January.

Hits of the Ages MFXSA

Coordinator: Alan Callicott
Room: UL218 (2nd level) MFXSA

The Hits of the Ages Sunday school class membership spans a range of ages from the 50s to the 80s. We're a Sunday school class, but we've also become a group of friends who look forward to our Sunday mornings together! There is always room for more.

We cycle through Bible studies... from the Old Testament to a Gospel to something else from the New Testament. We will be looking at the Gospel of John from the series *NT Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides*. We take turns leading the lesson each Sunday, but leading is not required to be part of the class. We would love to welcome new members!

Paula's Hearts and Hands FXSA

Coordinators: Elaine Cates, Melissa Ivy, Mary Rogers
Room: UL212 (2nd level)

Paula's Hearts and Hands combines Bible Study and service to the church. Each week, this group gathers around a table to study Scripture and knit prayer shawls, baby blankets, and hats for newborns. These are for members to use and share with

friends, neighbors, family - anyone who has a need. This group will be starting a study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. You're invited to join this class for the Bible study and fellowship whether you can stitch or not.

Seekers MFXSA

Coordinators: Jean Carroll, Nancy Halter
Room: UL216 (2nd level) MFMSA

The Seekers class spans a range of ages and always welcomes new members. This winter the group finishes the book of Romans and begins a study on Peter - *Peter, Learning to Be Like Jesus* by Robbie F. Castleman, part of the Lifeguide Bible Studies Series. A copy of this book can be checked out from the GPC library. Members of the class take turns facilitating each lesson, but facilitating is not a requirement of this class. While our group has been together for a while, new members are always welcome.

Faith in the Real World MFXSA

Coordinators: Susan Bingham, Gray Carter, Scott Hall, David Hopkins
Room: UL217 (2nd level)

This class is designed for adults of all ages and stages as a way to explore what God's Word tells us about living Christian lives in a divided, post-Christian culture. The studies for this term are: *Faith: Depending on God* and *Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past*. Both of these books are from the Lifeguide Bible Studies Series, and a copy of each can be checked out from the GPC library.

Key: M (male). F (female). X (married), S (single), A (all ages)

Bible Studies and Small Groups

Discipleship isn't just for Sunday mornings. Throughout the week, there are a number of other opportunities to gather for study, fellowship, and prayer. Take a look at the groups meeting and get connected!

Monday

Eat, Pray, Read (monthly book discussion group)
2nd Mondays, 9:30am-10:30am
*Meets in the church parlor
Contact: JoEllyn Slott (jgslott@aol.com)

Men's Lunch Devotional

2nd & 4th Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm
*Studying daily devotionals from Dallas Willard's *Hearing God*
*Meets at Paradise Café (6150 Poplar Ave, #120)
Contact: Anthony Duke (Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com)

Women's Book Group

3rd Mondays, 6:30pm, Room: Church Library
*For January reading *Finding Chika* by Mitch Albom
*For February reading *Hiding in the Light* by Rifqa Bary
(Each book will be discussed in its entirety at the meeting.)
Contact: Beth Willingham (bethwillingham@comcast.net)



Tuesday

Presbyterian Women (PW)
1st Tuesdays; 10:00am or 7:00pm; Bible Study Circles, multiple classrooms
3rd Tuesdays; 10:00am; Gathering, Warren Fellowship Hall
Contact: Sue Perrin (sue.perrin@att.net)

Wednesday

Compass meal and programs (see page 20)

Thursday

Thursday Bible Study
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30am-10:30am, Church Library
*Studying the book of James using the NT Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides
Contact: Jean Carroll (jeancarroll1@comcast.net)

Friday

Men's Breakfast
Fridays, 6:30am-7:30am, Warren Fellowship Hall, \$3 breakfast
*Using the lectionary to study Scripture
Contact: Jim Boyd (jboyd10@comcast.net)



Golf cart drivers are needed!!

If you are available on Sundays to drive the golf cart to help shuttle people between the parking lot and the church, please contact Bob Johnson at rhjohnson9@gmail.com or 901-754-1812.

Threads of Love Meets When?

Glad you asked. This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 9:30-12:00 in the new sewing room on the first floor of Evans Chapel. Join us for a morning of fellowship while we make clothing items for those in need. Sewing skills are not a requirement as there are plenty of other ways to participate.



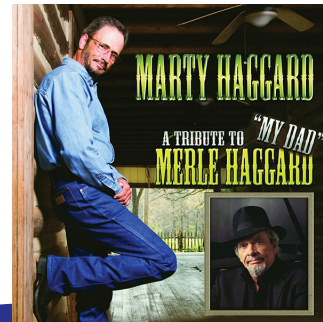
The church office occasionally needs help at the front desk. This involves answering phones, letting people into the building, entering attendance on the computer, and other light clerical needs as they occur. If you are available and would like to help during the day, please contact Ann DeVere in the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

GPC THEATER FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Theater Fellowship Group is going to hear A Tribute to Merle Haggard, My Dad at Bartlett Performing Arts on Friday, January 17.

Celebrate the music of country music legend Merle Haggard thoughtfully performed by his son Marty.

This month's conveners are Gisela and Terry Picket, and their contact email is giselapicket@gmail.com. Please email them if you can attend.



Participate



“VIRTUAL” DISCIPLESHIP: ONLINE BIBLE STUDY COMING IN JANUARY

When: Wednesday nights from 8:00-8:45pm, beginning January 15 for ten weeks, led by Rev. Will Jones.

What: Video-Conferencing Bible Study on Matthew. From your home, hotel room, or car, click on a link to join in with others studying the Gospel of Matthew.

Material: *Knowing the Bible: Matthew* by Drew Hunter. The material is available in a paperback book or in online, web-based curriculum.

Look for specifics coming in January.

Men's Breakfast

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



WOMEN AT GPC

Presbyterian Women in January 2020

Individual Circle meetings will be on January 7 at 10:00am. The ladies will be studying Lesson 5 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 7:00pm in the church parlor. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Perrin at Sue.perrin@att.net.

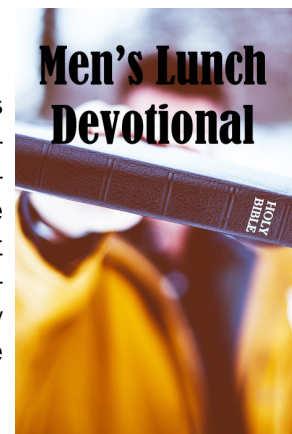
PW Gathering will be on January 21 at 10:00am in Warren Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Beth Carter. Beth will speak on the book she wrote and published *The Nestkeeper*.

Food for Project Outreach for January 2020 is canned meats, soups, cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Food bins are located in the Activity Center. All are invited to participate in Project Outreach.

MEN AT GPC

Men's Lunch Devotions

All men are invited to come as you can on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 11:30am-12:30pm at the Paradise Café (6150 Poplar Ave #120). Part of GPC's Men's Ministry, the contact person for this bimonthly lunch study is Anthony Duke (Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com).



GPC Local Mission Partners

Get Involved This Year



GPC regularly partners with local organizations to support the work they do in the community. The new year is a great time to get involved. Listed below are our local mission partners and the contact person to help get you plugged in.

Team Read/Team Math at Oak Forest and Willow Oaks Elementary Schools - Linda Oakes (linoakes@bellsouth.net)

Memphis Athletic Mission - Jody Waldrop (waldrop2824@gmail.com)

Binghampton Christian Academy - Helen Norman (helenwatnorman@icloud.com)

Room in the Inn - Susan Shirley Hurt (susanshirleyhurt@gmail.com)

Porter-Leath Cottonwood Head Start - Jeff Halfacre (jeff@memphis-ice.com)



Mark your planner for Sunday, January 5, at 4:30 in Warren Fellowship Hall. Come to the RITI Open House to see the new Community Room designated for our future guests and to participate in interactive training. A perfect time to join this exciting ministry!

Room in the Inn New Info in 2020



Can you believe it? Room in the Inn (RITI) is already in 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 only have 6 nights of service left for the season. 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 on Sunday, January 5 at 4:30pm in Warren Fellowship Hall 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), The RITI Core Team, Mission Leadership Team*

Needed RITI donations below.

Please note we can no longer accept travel-sized 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.

**ROOM
IN THE INN**

Home is where the  is.

Christmas Eve Giving Challenge

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 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.

This year the offering was designated for Binghampton Christian Academy, Memphis Athletic Mission, and Room in the Inn. The GPC body is historically lavish in gift-giving, so as soon as the total is determined, it will be published in the newsletter.



Now They're Cooking! *By Helen Norman*

What's better than eating Christmas cookies? Decorating them, of course.

The sixth graders at Binghampton Christian Academy and their Prayer Partners from Germantown Presbyterian gathered at the Salud Cooking School at Whole Foods for a class on baking and decorating Christmas cookies. The occasion was the students' annual Christmas party that GPC volunteers helped host. But it was the students who truly tapped into their culinary and creative skills to produce some impressive cookie designs. After the class and a pizza lunch, the students and Prayer Partners got a fascinating tour of the Whole Foods store.

Afterwards, the Prayer Partners took the students to Target where each student got to purchase gifts for self or family with a Target gift card provided by the Prayer Partners. It was a memorable morning full of hugs, smiles, and excited conversation. It was difficult to tell who enjoyed the day more—the students or their Prayer Partners.

Many thanks to the Prayer Partners/volunteers from GPC who helped make the day possible: Alinda Fahrenkopf, Missy Gwin, Tamah Halfacre, Ann Harbor, Paula Hopkins, Patty Jackson, Karen Lawhorn, Helen Norman, Barb Poier, Jo Slott, and Mary Alice Turner.

THIS MONTH THE GPC SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY FEATURES A GUEST WRITER WHO PARTICIPATES IN MANY GPC PROGRAMS.

WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

By Cathy Hastings

Where do I start? From the beginning...the day our lives turned upside down on September 9, 1981, almost 38 years ago.

We had arrived in Memphis six weeks prior, thanks to a job opportunity at Holiday Inn. We had been living in Florida and looking back, you could say, God moved us to Tennessee. My husband Kirk was temporarily unemployed and when he found work, we found ourselves packing. I was working for Xerox and was able to apply for a job transfer. I only worked one full day of that job. God had different plans for my family. We didn't know it at the time, but we were going to need to be close to a major children's hospital.

It was my second day on the job that I received the phone call from the babysitter. Those words every mom dreads, "They've taken your son by ambulance to the hospital." My heart stopped and my life took an unexpected detour. Unfamiliar with Memphis, my new coworkers explained where I needed to go and drove my car to the hospital, where we met Kirk. When we arrived at the local ER, we saw the ambulance drivers who said, "Don't try to follow us... just head to LeBonheur." We continued to the children's hospital. A social worker was assigned to our family, and she handed me a piece of paper with various names of specialty doctors.

Eventually, we made our way into the room to see our son Graham - a lifeless child, a five-month-old in a baby bed in the ICU unit. How did this happen? The next couple of days became a blur. It is not a time I like to reflect on.

At that moment, I just wanted my mom. Your mom can make it all better, but unfortunately not this time. My parents were on vacation when this happened. They were traveling on a ship somewhere in Alaska. I will forever be thankful to the Red Cross for tracking down my parents

when I needed them most. God, why did you allow this to happen? Yes, I asked the question but didn't allow myself to linger there long; there were too many decisions to be made and too many things to do. I

took action for my son. He needed me to be his advocate.

We prayed. What for? A miracle. Kirk and I both thought we knew God.

A college friend reached out and told us their church was praying for us. Who were these people we asked ourselves? People who didn't even know us were reaching out to us. We both grew up in the church. Wasn't that enough faith? This kind of faith intrigued us and when Graham was well enough, we vowed to visit this church.

We would later thank this church family as they would become our "family." Thus beginning our journey that ultimately would lead my husband and me to accept Christ as our Savior. It was during a church sermon that we both made a profession of faith. Now our journey would begin - trusting God. At the time, I was trusting anything a doctor could explain to us. Our son Graham was a medical mystery who soon developed into a complex case compounded with many obstacles. He had suffered a stroke followed by a seizure disorder.



How do you take care of a special needs child? What did those words mean? My life shifted from a nine-to-five career woman to a stay-at-home mom. A new identity and new family norm. There isn't a manual. It's all trial and error. Many people asked why or how could this happen to our son. I didn't have a clear answer. It was at a neighborhood Bible study that a sweet lady shared Psalm 139 with me. As I read it, God gave me a clear vision about Graham. Psalm 139 declares that God knew Graham before he was formed. He's not a mystery. He's a child of God just like you and me. He was not a mistake. He is our gift, our greatest gift along with our other two children. And God gave him to us.

As I reflect, Graham has opened more doors and given us many opportunities to share the gospel and life with so many. Oh, the blessings we have received.

Today, more churches and communities are offering programs and opening their doors for the special needs population. Be inspired to reach out and help someone who may not look or act "normal." We are all God's children. Where is your mission field? Graham is our mission field. We are blessed to be the parents of Graham Hastings.

Belong

DOUBLE THE FUN

TWO 5TH-GRADE WORSHIP LEADERS IN DECEMBER

The Fifth Grade Bridge Program exists to guide kids as they begin to live their lives of faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage friendships with each other, to actively participate in church life, and to successfully transition 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 in the community through Mission 901. Questions about this program can be directed to Anna White, Director of Children's Ministry (annaw@germantownpres.org).

One of December's 5th Grade Worship Leaders is CeCe Duke.

What is your full name? *Catherine Carole Duke*

Who are your parents and siblings? *Anthony and Brooke Duke; brother Bryce*

Where do you go to school? *Dogwood Elementary*

What have you most enjoyed doing at GPC? *Going to NaCoMe*

What have you learned at GPC? *I've learned about the Bible and the way we can use it in our lives.*

In the future what do you hope to experience at GPC? *I hope to experience more camps and fun activities with my church friends.*



Lead



The other December 5th Grade Worship Leader is Allie Trimble.

What is your full name? *Allison Brooke Trimble*

Who are your parents and siblings? *Sean and Melanie Trimble; sister Isabelle*

Where do you go to school? *Tara Oaks Elementary School*

What have you most enjoyed doing at GPC? *I have mostly enjoyed the crafts and the fun stories shared in Sunday School at GPC.*

What have you learned at GPC? *I have learned at GPC that the Lord is our true God. We can trust in God no matter what. I have learned a lot of Bible verses, too.*

In the future what do you hope to experience at GPC? *I hope to experience more fun activities with my GPC friends so that everyone can have fun with each other at GPC.*

It is with a red face that the Peace Program apologizes to Tom Cates. In last month's newsletter, a misprint of his name resulted in him being called "Tim" instead of "Tom." We are embarrassed at our error and appreciate his good humor in the matter.

Parents - Save
these Dates on Your
Children's Ministry
Calendar:

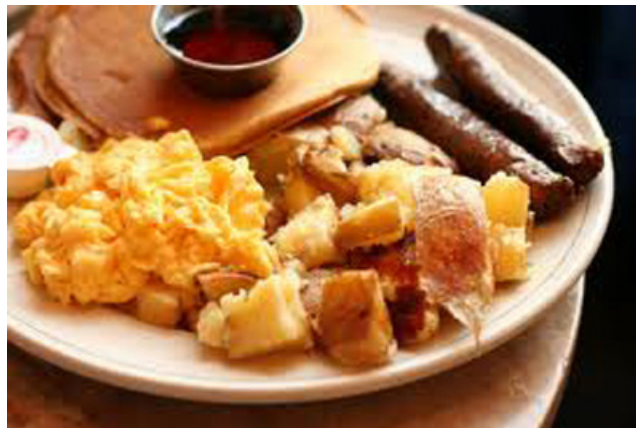
February 23 –
Children's Sunday

June 1-5 -
VBS 2020 and
Mission 901

PARACLETE BREAKFASTS BEGIN JANUARY 26 FOR 5TH GRADERS & JUNIOR HIGH

“Paracletos” is the Greek word for “encourager,” “advocate,” or “helper.” In the book of John chapters 14-16, Jesus refers to God sending an encourager to be with us forever through the Holy Spirit. In Children and Youth Ministry we are mindful of the need for our youth to be encouraged and supported. We are working to foster an environment where GPC youth feel welcomed, encouraged, and cared for not only by adult leaders such as Sunday School teachers, but also by their peers. On January 26 our 5th graders will have the opportunity to visit junior high Sunday School. This is one event in a year-long Bridge Program to help transition our 5th graders over to the GPC Youth Ministry. During this Sunday School hour each 5th grader will be paired with a junior high “Paraclete,” otherwise known as their “encourager” for the year. Throughout the January – May semester 5th graders will have the opportunity to eat breakfast monthly with their Paracletes. It is our hope that the 5th graders and Paracletes will develop the necessary skills of getting to know a new friend, encouraging that friend in participation, and

fostering a positive and welcoming youth environment. If you have any questions regarding the Paraclete role, please email Pastor Amanda Mackey, Minister to Youth (amandam@germantownpres.org) or Anna White, Director of Children's Ministry (annaw@germantownpres.org).



VBS 2020 Theme



Grow

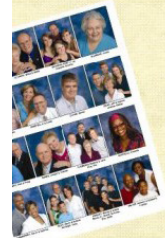
GPC's 2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT - EAT, PRAY, PLAY!

Relationship

GPC's 2019 Women's Retreat took place November 1-2, 2019 at Pinecrest Camp & Retreat Center. Planning Team members included: Elaine Cates, Melinda Russell, Wendy Holmes, Ann Harbor, Lacey Schepman, and Pastor Susie Wiggins.

The theme was *Wise & Worthy Women of the Word: Hearing Our Stories in the Stories of Biblical Women - AND Hearing Our Stories in the Overarching Story of LOVE that God is Telling!* Each woman actively participated in the fellowship, fun, and food, as well as the Bible study taught through narrative "readers' theatres" of the biblical women presented: Ruth and Naomi, Esther and Vashti, and Mary and Martha. Learning by both hearing and doing helped the women learn more about these ordinary women who became extraordinary women for God - just like we are all called to do, and are fully equipped and capable of doing.

Save the date - Women of GPC and Women of God - for the 2020 Women's Retreat - Eat. Pray. Play! November 6 and 7, 2020! Whatever this amazing Women's Retreat Planning Team creates and crafts for you - you will not want to miss!



Our New Church Photo Directory

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@germantownpres.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.



GPC'S GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Support

Consider: Grief is the normal and natural emotional reaction to loss or change of any kind... Grief is the conflicting feelings caused by the end of or change in a familiar pattern of behavior...

Consider: The feelings, emotions, and experiences of grieving occur in no less than 40 types of significant loss - with loss through the death of a loved one being the loss we most typically associate with grief...

Consider: Research has shown that many people do not deal effectively with grief, and unresolved grief can and does have long-term negative effects - in the work place, in relationships, and in physical health...

Consider: Significant loss and thus, grief, eventually affects every person...

Consider: It is not until someone experiences significant loss that they really understand how hard grief is to navigate...

Consider: It is in experiencing grief and loss firsthand that one realizes how ill-equipped they are to navigate and work through all of the emotions, feelings, and countless manifestations associated with grief...

Consider: Books on grief and loss alone often do not adequately aid in helping the bereaved navigate this journey of loss and life...

Consider: Often faith alone is not enough for those who are struggling mightily to learn how to live without their loved one...

Consider: Over five years ago, GPC began its Grief Support Ministry - in an effort to reach out to bereaved individuals within the GPC family and throughout the greater Memphis/Shelby County area...

This ministry seeks to provide an emotionally and physically safe environment in which participants can, in the context of community, become better equipped with tools for effectively navigating grief's difficult journey...

Consider: In recognition that a group setting will not always meet the needs of each bereaved individual, the Grief Support Ministry offers a one-on-one setting in which the bereaved can get the help they need.

Consider: The Grief Support Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall - The Grief Support Ministry leader, GPC member and former GPC staff member, Elder, Deacon, Certified Grief Support Specialist and Certified Grief Counselor, through the American Academy of Grief Counseling, The American Institute of Health Care Providers, and The Grief Recovery Institute

Beth Brock - GPC member, Elder, Deacon, Board Member of Memphis Crisis Center

Linda Oakes - GPC member, Deacon, Retired Nurse St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hospice Volunteer

Contact information for Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall - 901-494-7786 or stephaniewall@hotmail.com

Beth Brock - 901-355-0262 or beth.coleman.brock@gmail.com

Linda Oakes - f 901-237-6566 or linoakes@bellsouth.net

Consider: If you or someone you know has experienced significant loss through the death of a loved one, please consider participating in this ministry through the group or one-on-one setting...



Consider: The Grief Support Ministry Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm in the church parlor (January 9, February 13, March 12). This ministry is open to the public.

Please also note that in the event of inclement weather, the church follows the Shelby County Municipal Schools for weather-related delays and closings.

GPC CREATES TO SHARE

All year, but especially during the Christmas season, GPC offers you creative ways to bless your neighbors, friends, and families. 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-of-drawers in 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!).

Or if you need help locating any of these items, come by the church office.

Share

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.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING:
January 5 from 9:40-10:00am
in Warren Hall all adult
Sunday School classes will
meet for fellowship and
coffee before hearing briefly
from class leaders who will
share their topics for winter
and spring. This gathering
will give newcomers a chance
to learn more about GPC
Sunday school and see where
they want to plug in.**

Compass in January

Wednesday Night Meals & Programs

Contributed by George Barnes

January 8, 2020

Presenter: Tom Cates, counselor to many

Subject: "Euthanasia"

Background: The "right to die" and the moral and legal ramifications of those who would assist.

January 15

Presenter: Tom Cates, attorney at large

Subject: "Gender Respect and Discrimination"

Background: In the matter of discrimination, what are some actual experiences and what remedies do the laws afford?

January 22

Presenter: Dr. Mitzi Minor, Professor of Theology, Memphis Theological Seminary

Subject: "Guide Our Feet in the Way of Peace"

Background: We will revisit the beginnings of the gospels of Matthew and Luke for guidance offered as we seek peace in 2020.

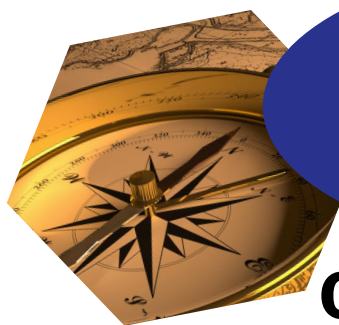
January 29

Presenter: Rabbi Harry K. Danziger (retired but very active in the faith)

Subject: "Judaism and Christianity: A Question of Presuppositions"
Background: An exploration of how Jews and Christians view the history and the present tense of Judaeo/Christian life.

This is the beginning month of a thought-challenging second semester. Set your 20/20 eyesight on the presentations and speakers for each week of January and join fellow parishioners for good food, active fellowship, and exploration of our faith and God's LOVE.

Compass programs begin with supper at 5:30pm (\$7 per person - reservations REQUIRED). The programs run from 6:15 to 7:00pm and are presented in Warren Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations for supper EACH week, either by signing the friendship pad in church or by calling the church office (901-754-5195) before noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday night Compass meeting.



Gather

Compass in 2020

January 8, 2020

Presenter: Tom Cates

Subject: "Euthanasia"

January 15

Presenter: Tom Cates

Subject: "Gender Respect and Discrimination"

January 22

Presenter: Dr. Mitzi Minor, Memphis Theological Seminary

Subject: "Guide Our Feet in the Way of Peace"

January 29

Presenter: Rabbi Harry K. Danziger

Subject: "Judaism and Christianity: A Question of Presuppositions"

February 5

Presenter: Stephanie Wall

Subject: "Bear One Another's Burdens"

February 12

Presenter: Stephanie Wall

Subject: "Become a Light Bearer"

February 19

Presenter: Dr. Jerold Teachey

Subject: "Music for the Lenten Season"

February 26 - Ash Wednesday

Supper will be served at 5:30pm in Warren Fellowship Hall followed by an Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

March 4

Presenters: Rev. Susan Wiggins & Ms. Anna White

Subject: a Lenten study program for children & adults (first in a series of four)

March 11

Presenters: Rev. Susan Wiggins & Ms. Anna White

Subject: a Lenten study program for children & adults (second in a series of four)

March 18

NO COMPASS MEETING: spring break for schools

March 25

Presenters: Rev. Susan Wiggins & Ms. Anna White

Subject: a Lenten study program for children & adults (third in a series of four)

April 1

Presenters: Rev. Susan Wiggins & Ms. Anna White

Subject: a Lenten study program for children & adults (final in the Lenten series)

April 8

NO COMPASS PROGRAM: Holy week

April 9 - Maundy Thursday

A meal will be served at 5:30pm in Warren Fellowship Hall followed by a Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

April 15

Presenter: Roscoe Phillips
Subject: "Bible Jeopardy"

April 22? or April 29?

Presenter & Subject: TBD

April 29

END OF COMPASS SESSIONS for winter/spring 2020

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 gospel of Matthew and Jesus' early days of ministry. The confirmation class is continuing to work on their faith statements. The senior high youth will be exploring Jesus in the Old Testament.

January dates:

January 5 - Youth Group resumes, Jr High 4:30-6:30,
Sr High 6:00-8:00 in the AC

January 8- Compass at Panera, 6-7pm

January 10-11- Confirmation Retreat

January 12- GPC Youth Family Potluck, 5:30-7:30pm in
Warren Hall

January 15-Compass at Panera, 6-7pm

January 22- Compass at Panera, 6-7pm

January 24-25- Jr High Youth Lock-In, 9pm-7am

January 26- No Jr High Youth Group, Sr High service
project at All Saints Episcopal Church

January 29- Compass at Panera, 6-7pm

Youth

We need GPC's best and brightest people to be a part of the youth auction planning team to help make this year the best youth auction ever! We need lots of help collecting donations and organizing the event. Please email Pastor Amanda at amandam@germantownpres.org if you are interested.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Amanda
amandam@germantownpres.org



YOUTH AUCTION HELP!

We need people to help collect donations and decorate the Activity Center. If you are interested in helping with this year's youth auction, please contact Pastor Amanda (amandam@germantownpres.org).

IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| >Gay Beaumont | >Judy & Fred Frick | >Dot Ledlow | >Erin & Thomas Powell | Johnathan, & Sandy Franks |
| >Shirley Billups | >Susan & Michael Gyura | >Aggie & Jack Losa | >Jackie & Bill Ruleman | >Margaret Williams |
| >Sherril & Jim Blair | >Nancy & Peter Hawkinson | >Willa Lowry | >Jan Thomson | |
| >Huddy & Bayard Boyle | >Roy Hendrix | >Boyd Maize | >Patti Tracey | |
| >Elaine & Tom Cates | >Jean & Bob Hicks | >Meredith Mattila | >Amanda Walters | |
| >Virginia Dickinson | | >Mack Pepper | >Woodie Whited, | |

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to:
Jackie & Bill Ruleman & family in the death of Scott.

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 | >Hillary Fechter - daughter-in-law of Kathy Veazey's neighbor | >Jen & Bobby Ireland, sons, Nick & Matt - neighbors of Bob Bobo | >Shane Stanford - pastor at Christ Methodist Church |
| >Julie Bland - daughter of Mary & Rodney Strop | >Pat Fox - mother of friend of Sherrie Horner | >Debbye Jensen - cousin of Jeanie Hill | >William Steven, son of Hayley Steven - friend of Susan Shirley Hurt |
| >Lynne & Martin Briggs - friends of Phyl Simmons | >Jay Gray - friend of Julie & Matthew Lindow | >LaLisa Lindemann - daughter of Dot Ledlow | >Dr. J. Charles Taylor & family - partner of Bob Bobo |
| >Elaine Brown - mother of Cheri Howle | >Susan Hawkins - daughter of Ann Phillips | >Rev. Philomena Ofori-Naaph - sister/friend/colleague of Pastor Susie | >Kila Tripp - daughter of Cindy & Rick Tripp |
| >Thomas Canale - father of Bob Bobo's neighbor | >Roy Hill - brother of Walter Hill | >Ginger & Thomas Payne, daughter Tori, Ginger's parents, Myra & Dale - friends of Sherrie & Neal Horner | **Dick Vosburg - friend of Margaret Owens |
| >family of Liz Cayce | >John Howle - son of Cheri & Mike Howle | | >Jerry Wilson, Sr. - father of Jerry Wilson |
| >Jacque Clift - friend of Diane Callahan | | | |

****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.

January GPC Family Prayer Ministry

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Jan 6
Christine & Tom Adams, Kirsty
Cathy & Ruffin Borden
Abby Chandler, Anna, Will
Jennie Fulmer
Susan Jones, Clifford,
Elizabeth
Lalla Mellor
Leigh Powers
Mary & Rodney Strop | Jan 13
Bonnie Algee
Sandra Franks & Woodie
Whited, Johnathan
Ruth Grosshuesch
Jerry Huff
Susan & Chuck Hurt, Charlie
Norma Miles
Jennifer & Bill Prest, Keith
Ellis, Metcalf, Walton | Jan 20
Anne Allen
Mary K & David Grantham,
James, Wells, Thomas
Patty & Steve Jackson
Mary Lange
Barbara Ragsdale
Ali Slott | Jan 27
Janet Anderson
Lindsey & Joseph Butler,
Adelaide, Chandler
Lea & Eric Buring, Dina & Ollie
Ciabattini
Brenda & David Jeter
Jan Petri & Jerold Teachey,
Jenna, Sarah, Quin
Anne & Wayne Tansil
Ruth Woodworth |
|---|---|--|---|

MEMORIALS

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

Music Fund

*In Memory of Frances Carter
Bonnie Algee*

*In Memory of Al Baker
Bonnie Algee*

Memorial Fund

*In Memory of Frank Williams
Margaret Miller
Kay & Gene Reves*

*In Memory of Fred Stearns
Jo Ann & Rush Stuart*

GPC Budget Update

GPC Financial Summary, November 2019

	Nov. 2019	2019 YTD	Nov. 2018	2018 YTD
Revenue	\$ 123,047	\$ 1,582,970	\$112,615	\$ 1,413,400
Expenses	\$ 119,216	\$ 1,557,871	\$120,414	\$ 1,437,848
Net	\$ 3,831	\$ 25,099	\$ (7,799)	\$ (24,448)

Revenue for November was \$123,047, which, with expenses of \$119,216, produced a small surplus of \$3,831. On a year-to-date basis, we have a surplus of \$25,099. The year is 92% complete, and our revenue is 90% of budget, so we have some work to do in December to hit our annual budget. This is significantly better than our 2018 results when we were in a deficit at the end of November.

We had \$35,619 in contributions to *Building Tomorrow Today* for November with no expenses. We do expect an additional \$60,000 or so in expenses as we wind up the contract with Linkous Construction. Our loan balance in January should be approximately \$2,250,000 with \$640,000 in pledges still to be paid by May when our campaign concludes.

A number of members choose to make a gift of securities to the church at the end of the year. Remember: if you didn't notify Fred or Debbi in the Business Office beforehand, make sure you let them know so they will credit the gift correctly. Frequently, the sending broker does not disclose the name of the donor, then the donor doesn't get credit for the gift. A significant gift of stock from last year still has not been claimed. Remember to let the office know any time you plan to give a gift of this kind or if you have already done so.

GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 2363 S GERMANTOWN RD
 GERMANTOWN TN 38138

PH: 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



February Window Deadline: January 15

Stewardship

To whom much has been given.... Luke 12:48 (NRSV)

This year's theme is "To Whom Much Has Been Given....," which is taken from something Jesus said in Luke 12. We believe that we all have been given so much from God.

Through Christ, we have a calling, a sense of purpose, relationships, forgiveness for our sin, hope for the future, and much more. We are the beneficiaries of great grace. So much has been given to us. Therefore, God has great expectations of us.

God does not force us to be generous, but He expects generosity from us in response to His grace. God will not compel us to be giving, but He invites us to remember how much we have received. Therefore, since God has given us so much, we ought to give generously in return.

You can go online and make your pledge at <https://germantownpres.org/2020-pledge-commitment/> or you can pick up a card from the pew racks, the Welcome Center, the AC Lobby, or the narthex and return it to the church office so we can plan for 2020.



Remember!
*You can easily and safely
 give online by visiting:
 GermantownPres.org/giving.*



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 ONLINE AT
WWW.GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG



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