

# THE GOOD NEWS



Formerly Princeton Presbyterian Church \* A PC (USA) Congregation  
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## Living with a Faithful Heart

January 2020

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The old curse is, "May you live in interesting times." The times we live in are indeed interesting, filled with challenges and fears, pulling our attention from one headline to the next as we are unsure of what might happen next. How do we enter this new year and stay whole and focused on the right things and keep headed in the right direction without fear? One thing that keeps us focused is to live with a faithful heart, centered on Christ and Christ's ways in all we do. I found this New Years prayer by Howard Thurman, a great 20<sup>th</sup> African American theologian, written in his own era of "interesting times" and offer it to you as we step into the new year. May it guide us all!

New Year's blessings to you!  
Pam

## A Prayer For The New Year

God,

Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.

There will be much to test me and  
make weak my strength before the year ends.

In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and  
do the thing of which I am ashamed.

There will be errors in the mind  
and great inaccuracies of judgment...

In seeking the light,  
I shall again and again find myself  
walking in the darkness.

I shall mistake my light for Your light  
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make.

Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year  
with a faithful heart.

May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to false-  
ness, to vanity, to sin.

(cont. on pg. 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)

Though my days be marked  
with failures, stumblings, fallings,  
let my spirit be free  
so that You may take it  
and redeem my moments  
in all the ways my needs reveal.

Give me the quiet assurance  
of Your Love and Presence.  
Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.

(Howard Thurman - *Meditations Of The Heart*)

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**WORSHIP IN JANUARY**

Sunday, January 5 – Epiphany Star Gift Sunday (see below)  
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-5, Matthew 2:1-12  
Sermon: 2020 Vision  
Choir - Communion

Sunday, January 12 – Baptism of Jesus, Reaffirmation of Baptism  
Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3: 13-17  
Sermon: Chosen

Sunday, January 19 – Evan Hansen preaching

Sunday, January 26 – Claire Jones preaching

**STAR GIFT SUNDAY**

In our church, Epiphany Sunday, which we are celebrating on January 5 this year, is also Star Gift Sunday. On that day, we hear the story of the Magi who left everything behind to follow the light of a star that led them to Bethlehem, where they knelt before Jesus and offered their gifts. We also enter the season of Epiphany, of the revealing of God’s light in Jesus. As we search for light and guidance at the beginning of the new year, each person is given a star with a word on it, a word that will have special meaning in the year ahead. When we’ve done this in the past, many people have found hope, encouragement, and courage to take a new step in their star-gift word. What word will God have for you this year? Come to worship on January 5 and find out!



**CHOSEN**



Jesus started his ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist. In that moment, he knew he had been chosen by God to do a new thing. Baptism starts a new direction for each one of us, as we are chosen to be God’s people. On Sunday, January 12, we will remember our baptism and renew our baptismal covenant with God. In your baptism, you are chosen and called by God!

## ANNUAL MEETING OF TREE OF LIFE CHURCH

The Annual Meeting of Tree of Life Church will be held **Sunday, February 9** immediately following worship. Annual reports will be available Sunday, February 2. Reports to be included in the Annual Report should be in to the church office by Tuesday, January 21.

### Session Notes – December

Following are highlights of the December 4 Session meeting.

**Report of the Clerk:** Minutes of the Session meeting of Wednesday, November 6 were reviewed and received as presented. Letters asking for donations were received from Kirkwood Camp and the Presbyterian Historical Society.

**Report of the Treasurer:** November income totaled \$14,847 while expense totaled \$11,768 for a net current month surplus of \$3,079. Year to date income totaled \$157,198 while year to date expense totaled \$152,600 for a net surplus of \$4,598.

#### Team Reports:

- **Administration:** The treasurer recommended a budget for 2020 with total income of \$177,792 and total expense of \$174,820. The budget was approved as presented. Session also approved the removal of the “Princeton Presbyterian Church” sign and garden on the Church Road side of the church. The sign no longer reflects who we are as a church, and both sign and garden are in poor condition.
- **Building Community:** Planning has begun for the Souper Bowl of Caring, which will be held on February 1. Help will be needed to deliver flyers and to collect and sort food.
- **Communications:** Some updates to the website have been made. It was decided to take a church family photo following worship on December 15.
- **Nurture Faith:** Planning continued for Advent and Christmas. The Star Gifts will again be presented in January.

**Pastor’s Report:** The Pastor officiated at the funeral of Elder James Eustace on November 22.

**Other Business:** Prospective new members Beth Campbell, Ken Hawthorne, and Clare Zimmer met with Session and discussed their faith stories. Session voted to accept all three into membership. They were to be recognized during worship on Sunday, December 15. The date for the annual congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, February 9 following worship.

## SOUPERBOWL OF CARING



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – FEBRUARY 1, 2020

If you ask any football fan what the biggest event is in the world of professional football, the answer would be the **Super Bowl**. The day before the big game, there's a big event in Springfield, as well as other cities across our country, with a different goal. The **Souper Bowl of Caring** began many years ago when a church youth group decided they wanted to do something to help those who were hungry.

Our efforts to help those in our communities who are hungry will continue into 2020. On **Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** Tree of Life will be a drop-off point. During January we as a congregation will be collecting non-perishable food for the Souper Bowl of Caring which will take place the day before the big game. Remember to look for sales wherever you shop and place items in the tubs at the front or back door of the church. The best part is that every item that we collect as well as donations that are dropped off on February 1st will go to Chester Eastside for their food cupboard which helps to feed many people in Chester and communities close by who need help. There will be plenty of opportunities to support this event. Here are some other ways that you can help:

- Distribute flyers to homes in our neighborhood on January 25<sup>th</sup>
- If you live in Springfield, Morton or Rutledge volunteer to have a sign on your lawn so neighbors know about this event
- Be at Tree of Life on February 1<sup>st</sup> to help sort and pack donations
- Donate medium sized sturdy boxes for packing food. Liquor store boxes work great.
- Volunteer to transport the packed food in your vehicle to Chester Eastside. Trucks and vans are very useful for this job.

Once again Tree of Life will be a drop-off point the day of the event. Lots of food will be coming through the front door of the church which needs to be sorted and packed so the more hands we have, the better. ***Whatever way you can be a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring will be much appreciated. It's a wonderful way to give a different meaning to the game, helping to fight hunger in our local community!*** There will be sign up sheets posted during the month of January. Think about how you can help make our Souper Bowl of Caring a success.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - FEBRUARY 1**

## ASD/ADHD SUPPORT GROUP ENDS

Since November of 2016, Tree of Life has hosted a support group for parents of children with ASD/ADHD once a month on Sunday afternoons. It has been a good partnership and helped us to develop some new relationships as we strive to be a church in ministry with people with disabilities and their families. Due to dwindling participation in the monthly meetings, the decision has been made to stop meeting face to face. The conversations will continue through the Facebook page, Parents of Children with ASD/ADHD of Delco. Thanks to all those who have provided support and childcare for this group over the past couple of years, and special thanks to Jane Dunbar, who has been a wonderful and energetic partner as the leader of this group. We look forward to seeing what God will do through her and at Tree of Life Church in the months ahead.



## Our Community Cup Coffeehouse

Our Community Cup Coffeehouse is a weekly gathering with dinner, fun activities and live music for everyone, especially people with disabilities and their family members and care givers. We meet each Friday at Tree of Life Church from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. It is a major mission and commitment for our church. A number of committed folks keep it going week by week, but sometimes they get tired and could use a Friday off or some extra support. If you are interested in helping occasionally or being part of a team, your help would be gratefully accepted! This is a meaningful ministry that makes a big impact in the lives of those who come – and it's a lot of fun! Please talk to Ginny Warmerdam or Pam McShane.

Here's what's happening at Our Community Cup in January:

Friday, January 3 – New Year's Celebration, January Birthdays and music by Peter Ahn. Peter Ahn is a gifted musician as well as being the pastor of Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and the dad of three lively kids. We look forward hearing his music!

Friday, January 10 – Indoor Winter Sports, music by Julia Levitna

Friday, January 17 – Karaoke Night, music by Les "Doc" Raichlen

Friday, January 24 – Activity To Be Announced, music by Square Wheels

Friday, January 31 – Silver Winds Open Mic



### LOOKING AHEAD

January will be a quiet month at Tree of Life Church. That's good, because there's a lot going on in February! Here are some of the highlights, so you can mark your calendar now:

Saturday, February 1 – Community-Wide Souperbowl of Caring

Sunday, February 9 – Annual Meeting of Tree of Life Church

Saturday, February 15 – Share the Love Fest V

Sunday, February 23 – Special Report from Princeton Seminary Research Team on churches doing ministry with people with disabilities (see February newsletter for details).

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## Straw for the Manger



## Happy Birthday Bill



## Our Community Cup



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, December 15 we were delighted to receive three new members into our congregation at Tree of Life Church. Here's a little bit about them:

**Beth Campbell** - Beth comes to us by letter of transfer from St. Matthew Lutheran Church. She was introduced to us through Our Community Cup Coffeehouse, which she attends with her brother Ken. She works at the University of Pennsylvania doing medical research. Beth is married and has three dogs.

**Ken Hawthorne** - Ken is a regular attender at Our Community Cup Coffeehouse and works at the New Avenue Cafe in Havertown two afternoons a week. He lives with his sister Beth Campbell and her husband and three dogs. Ken is a big sports fan, and especially enjoys the Eagles.

**Clare Zimmer** - Clare is a recently retired Special Ed teacher from the Chester-Upland school district. She got to know us through Our Community Cup Coffeehouse, where she came to visit and volunteer. She is an energetic person with many interests, and keeps herself busy substitute teaching among other activities.

Welcome to all three of our new members! We're glad you're



**Do we have  
your birthday  
& anniversary?  
If not please  
email the office  
so we can add it  
to our calendar.**

### JANUARY:

15 ~ Will Campbell  
23 ~ Laura McShane  
29 ~ Kay DeSio

Happy Anniversary  
Ron and Mary Joy Grapin  
January 25!

Sign up on our  
bulletin boards:

- \* Fellowship
- \* Flower Dedications
- \* Souperbowl of Caring

## LOVE & SERVE

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Counters	Fellowship Hour
1/5	Bobbie Morrison	Amy Wothers Kathy Morrell	Brian McShane Mindy Bogue	
1/12	Carolyn Jeffrey	Sue Shaw Bobbie Morrison	Alan Buchta Kate McShane	
1/19	Brendan McShane	Kate McShane Miranda Cubler	Annette Donnelly Debby Richardson	
1/26	Kathy Morrell	Marian Andrews Leslie Kirsch	Shaun Eyring Marian Andrews	

**Church email:  
treeoflifepc@gmail.com**

**Reverend Mrs. Pamela McShane, Pastor  
Christine Laquintano, Director of Music**

Sisters Who Love to Serve

*Dear Tree of Life friends,*

*Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I will use it to support my continuing education as I attend the Coaching Institute at Columbia Seminary in January. The training I will receive there will help me to support and guide other pastors as they go through the same kind of transitions our congregation has gone through. Thanks for all you do to support me day in and day out, and for your generosity that will help me to support others in their ministry. I am truly blessed to be your pastor!*

*May you have a blessed and happy New Year!*

*Pam*

*Dear Tree of Life,*

*Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas gift! It is a privilege to share the joy of music with this congregation and **this choir**. St. Augustine said, "When you sing, you pray twice." And I think that when you sing, you pray three times - with you voice, your mind, and your spirit! Thank you for the weekly opportunity to share the joy of music using a very festive organ. And again, thank you for your Christmas gift.*

*Christine Laquintano, Music Director*

*Dear Tree of Life,*

*Thank you very much for the very generous Christmas gifts this year. As always,, it was very thoughtful and much appreciated.*

*~Alonzo and Debby*





## New Avenue Foundation Fundraiser



The poster features a central illustration of a red bowling ball striking several white bowling pins. The background is split into blue, yellow, and red sections. Text is arranged in a vertical layout on the right side of the image.

**STRIKE UP SOME FUN!**  
**SUPPORT DISABILITY**  
**EMPLOYMENT WITH**  
**NEW AVENUE FOUNDATION**

Questions? Contact  
andrea@newfdn.org

Join us on  
**JAN 18TH**  
From 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
**AT SPROUL LANES**

Ticket includes 2 hours of  
bowling, rental shoes, pizza,  
and soda.

B.Y.O.B If age 21+

**Tickets:**  
**bit.ly/nafbowling**

**\$30 Per Bowler**  
Reserve a lane for 6 people - \$150

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