

# NEW HORIZONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## December Newsletter

New Horizons PCUSA  
9424 Everman Ave.  
Overland, MO 63114

### Important Dates for December

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Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers	December 10
Winter Solstice	December 21
Christmas Cantata	December 24
Candlelight Service @ 7pm	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

**Church Office Hours:**  
Tu, Th, F: 8:30am—2:00pm

**Phone:** (314) 427-0841

**Fax:** (314) 427-0568

**Email:** [newhorizonspcusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newhorizonspcusa@sbcglobal.net)

**Website:** [www.newhorizons-pcusa.org](http://www.newhorizons-pcusa.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsPCUSA](http://www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsPCUSA)



# NEW HORIZONS PC(USA)

## News 'n Views

*Seek ye the Lord, with heart, mind, and soul*

### Words from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Advent has begun and signifies the possibilities of new beginnings in our church and in our own lives. Elsewhere in this newsletter is the report of the Third Sunday of Assessment when we considered the future. The next step will be to decide what we can take to create a new future for our church. What will you do to make this Advent a time for new beginning at New Horizons?

Pastor Mark

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#### **SUNDAY OF ASSESSMENT REPORT** **October 29, 2017**

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*1. What do you see as the role of the church in the community?*

As we look to the future, the role of the church in the community is to be a gathering place; a place of refuge, inspirations, and Jesus's beacon in the community. We should increase the church's exposure in the community by placing an ad or article in the local paper about our Christmas program as other churches have done.

*2. What is the role of the church as a family?*

The role of the church as a family should include being a place of support in times of joy and in times of need; it should feel like the church "has my back". The church should be a community we get together and help each other. The pastoral care committee's visits to shut-ins and others could be expanded.



Faith Gillespie  
Jeff Johnson  
Lucille Yamnitz  
Evelyn Reed  
Kathryn Byrd  
Edie Roberts  
Marion Brewer  
Lore Bailey  
Tom Highfill  
Peg Berger  
Julianna Yamnitz  
Tamara King  
Charity Sherrington  
Michele Klous  
Jennifer Einfeldt  
Marcia Shrum  
Crystal Freeman  
Matt Woods  
Claudia Commons  
Herman & Phyllis Jackson

**\*\*Please submit new prayer requests to the Office, church email, or After Hours Mailbox.**

**Office Hours:**

Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30am—2pm

**Pastor's Hours:**

Tues\* & Thurs 1pm—4pm

**Office phone:** (314) 427-0841

**Pastor's cell phone:** (314) 779-6940

**Pastor's email:** [mark.strothmann@att.net](mailto:mark.strothmann@att.net)

It was noted that the church should be more than the "Red Cross" in responding to needs, but be more aggressive in looking for ways to help and be proactive in using the resources we have. Saying "give us a call when you need help" doesn't always work because folks won't always reach out for help. Perhaps we could have group of people that are organized in ways to address needs. The question was raised of how to reach the "non-engaged" when they don't know what is offered. It was suggested we revisit "Bring a friend to Church Sunday" and continue to reach out to others.

### 3. How do we serve members and friends?

In serving our members and friends we should continue social gatherings. Possibly we could increase luncheons to once a month. We could make "Thinking of you" calls to folks who aren't present at worship.

In response to the question about how we follow up with first time visitors, we found out the office administrator, Victoria, sends out a follow up letter. The observation was offered that having folks in the pews may not be the answer to the question "How do we serve God?" Perhaps the need is more to address how to develop a personal relationship with God for those outside our services.

### 4. How do we best use out resources to remain vital in the community?

Regarding how do we best use our resources to remain vital in the community, we should support the building and keep it in good repair. This seems to be our best resource at this time as many different groups use the building. The question was raised about reaching out to those who are in these groups. It was suggested to improve communications and follow up with the groups using the building. It was noted that due to the nature of some groups such as AA and NA contact is not allowed.

We should make sure that the police and fire departments are aware there is space to help with their food drives and check on help for the food pantry. Pastor Mark provided a brief explanation of the rent and utility assistance program of the Pastors' association.

Peggy Lohnes gave a brief financial report. We have a good investment manager and our funds are in good shape at this time.

### 5. What is your vision for this church in the future?

Concerning visions for our church in the future, we need to think outside the box for ways to serve church and community. The traditional church is perceived differently by society today. We could consider the possibility of teaming with other churches for services and music, etc. We should continue serving the homebound and shut-ins. We need to consider young and middle-aged people and what is our part in their future and their part in our future.

## **Gospel Christmas Concert**

**December 3rd @ 4pm**

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The Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church Men's Chorus will be a special guest in "A Gospel Christmas", a Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis event that will be held at Rock Church of St. Louis on Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m. The church is located at 9125 Manchester Rd., in Brentwood.

## **"Jesus, the Light of the World"**

**December 3rd @ 4:30pm**

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The Chancel Choir and children's choirs of Dardenne Presbyterian Church will be in concert on Sunday, December 3 at 4:30 pm. This musical celebration will feature Christmas carols from the countries of Spain, France, Germany, Ireland, Africa, Brazil, and the United States. A special appearance by the American Parai Academy and St. Louis Tamil Christian Fellowship will represent traditions from India. Please join us as we joyously celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior for people of every tribe and nation.

## **Newsletter Deadline**

Newsletter articles for the January/February Issue should be submitted to **the office** by January 25, 2015.

## Christmas Prayer

Dear God, Help us to focus on you today, remembering that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our most treasured gift for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. You never leave us. Thank you for your daily Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that your surround us with favor as with a shield, we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today... In Jesus' name, amen.

## Christmas Scripture

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. "

- John 3: 16

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. "

- John 1: 14

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. "

- Isaiah 7: 14

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. "

- Romans 6: 23

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

- Isaiah 9: 6—7

## Christmas Organ Concert

**December 15th @ 7pm**

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First Presbyterian Church of Alton, Illinois, located at 4th and Alby Streets, will host the renowned organist Dr. Marilyn Keiser, the Chancellor's Professor of Music Emeritus at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, in an organ concert on Friday, December 15, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a reception to follow.

## Moment for Prayer

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

## Christmas Concert & Benefit

**December 15th @ 7:30pm**

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Grace Presbyterian Church, invite all to enjoy an evening of beautiful Christmas music performed by members of the Grace Presbyterian Church Choir and the Twin City Community, on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Immediately following will be a Cookie and Candy Sale to benefit the Jefferson County Homeless Youth Initiative.

## "A Christmas Blessing"

God grant you the light of Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.

- Wilda English

## Questions to Ponder

1. Why is Jesus' birth important to you?
2. How is Jesus' life reflected in the way you live everyday?
3. What have you learned this year?
4. What goals do you have for 2018 and how will you reach them?
5. What do you value most in your life?
6. In what ways do you want to change your life in 2018?
7. What does "being Christ-like" mean to you, and how can you be more "Christ-like" in your life?
8. What makes you happy?

## Christmas Eve Prayer

"Gracious, loving and merciful God, on this Christmas Eve, as the light of your Word penetrates our hearts, as we are reminded of the gift of life and faith, as the glories of the heavenly hosts are echoed in our church, we open ourselves up to your Spirit and give you thanks. We are grateful, Lord Jesus, that your story has become our story, and we celebrate your birth.

Continue, we pray, to instill in us a profound sense of your abiding presence, and help us to take to heart the wonder of your love, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will. Help us, Lord God, to be the faithful, gracious, loving, giving and forgiving people you would have us be."

- Rev. Dr. Sean B. Murray

## Christmas Quotes

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." -Mother Teresa

"We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice." -Pope Paul VI

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." -Pope Francis

## Christmas Eve Cantata

Sunday, December 24th @ New Horizons

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Our Annual Christmas Cantata performed by the New Horizons Choir will be Sunday, December 24th during worship. That evening will be our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome and invited to come celebrate the birth of our Savior!

## Christmas Bible Trivia

1. Which Gospel(s) speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth?
2. How many magi visit Christ after his birth?
3. What does "Immanuel" mean?
4. Christ was laid in a manger. What is a manger?
5. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
6. In which direction did the wise men travel to reach Jerusalem?

### ANSWERS

*1. Matthew and Luke; 2. An undisclosed number; 3. "God with Us"; 4. A Bible does not specify how many; 5. Caesar Augustus; he ordered the people to go back to the city of their forefathers for a census; 6. Westward*

## December Birthdays

Agnes Zimmermann	12/07
Bob Cochran	12/21
Peggy Lohnes	12/26
Erastus Gachingiri	12/30
George Albin, III	12/31

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

## December Anniversaries

Wray & Doris Darr 12/28



# December 2017 - New Horizons' Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Stewardship Potluck 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	<b>27</b> 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>29</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>1</b> 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>2</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
<b>3</b> 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	<b>4</b> 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>6</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>8</b> 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>9</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
<b>10</b> 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Mission Mtg 12:00pm Congregational Mtg to Elect Officers 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	<b>11</b> 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>12</b> 12:00pm PW Meeting (JH) 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>13</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing 6:30pm Session Mtg	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>15</b> 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>16</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
<b>17</b> 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Deacon Mtg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	<b>18</b> 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>20</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>22</b> Office Closed 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>23</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
<b>24</b> 10:30am Worship & Cantata 12:30pm Pendo Comm. 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>27</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>29</b> 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>30</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
<b>31</b> 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	<b>1</b> 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	<b>3</b> 8:30am Mission Sewing	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	<b>5</b> 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	<b>6</b> 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.