

NEW HORIZONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December Newsletter

New Horizons PCUSA
9424 Everman Ave.
Overland, MO 63114

Important Dates in December

Hanging of the Greens	December 1
Called Congregation Meeting	December 9
Human Rights Day	December 10
Christmas Joy Offering Collection	December 23
Christmas Eve Service	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

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

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Website: www.newhorizons-pcusa.org

Facebook: 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:

Several years ago, I was called to jury duty the week of Thanksgiving. When I received my notice of jury duty, I groaned because I knew it would be a busy week. In addition to the hectic activity of the holiday season, it was also the end of the month and I had to think about what to write in my pastor's letter for the December newsletter. Fortunately, I did not actually serve on a jury, but I waited all morning in the county courthouse until we received word that all cases on the docket had been settled and we could go home. Nonetheless, I had to sit in a waiting room thinking about all the things I had to do, write a newsletter article, then prepare for Advent and Christmas. Some people would say that this was a waste of time. However, several times during the jury orientation, it was emphasized that what we were doing was very important and useful. The very presence of prospective jurors ready to make a decision provides an incentive to settle the cases on the docket, thus saving time and money. Waiting to hear the "good news" that there would not be any trials that day was not a waste of time. I learn a lesson that day: Waiting is not always a waste of time when it serves a good and useful purpose.

Advent is also a time of waiting. We will soon be in the midst of Advent, a four week period of preparation as we wait for celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas. Is this period of preparation useful or a waste of time? Why don't we go straight to the birthday party? I am sure that the merchants in the malls and on-line would resist this suggestion. After all, Advent season has become a major boost to our economy as we frantically buy more Christmas presents.

But, Advent is not a shopping season. It is a period of preparation when we focus our hearts



Evelyn Reed
Edie Roberts
Marion Brewer
Lore Bailey
Julianna Yamnitz
Michele Klous
Jennifer Einfeldt
Crystal Freeman
Brenda Jones
Harry and Charity Sherrington
Dorothy Alexander
Edna Berger
Dave Crabtree
Linda Spickler
Lucille Yamnitz

But we will give ourselves continually to
Prayer
and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

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

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues, Fri 8:30am—2pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tues* & Fri 1pm—4pm

Office phone: (314) 427-0841

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

Pastor's email: mark.strothmann@att.net

and minds on the coming of Jesus into our world. It is one of the most important (and useful) seasons of the church year when we focus on Jesus who is bringing the Good News of salvation into our world. Good news is always worth waiting for!

Thank you for the basket of fruit that I received for Pastor's Appreciation Month. Special thanks to Samantha and Julia Lohnes and Candy Parson for putting it together!

- Pastor Mark Strothmann

Advent Prayer

O Wisdom, O holy word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

O Key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Ruler of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O keystone of the mighty arch of humankind: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel, ruler and lawgiver, desire of the nations, savior of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.

- Bobby Gross

from "Advent in Church and Cultural Tradition"

New Horizons Upcoming Events

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 9th, for the purpose of electing new officers. Your attendance is greatly appreciated!

Our Christmas Eve Service will be Monday, December 24th, at **7pm** in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome and invited to come celebrate the birth of the Christ Jesus!

PCUSA Blue Christmas Services

This time of year can be difficult for those of us who have lost dear family and friends. Many churches in our presbytery will have services for those who will be struggling with these emotions; the nearest services are listed below.

Everyone is welcome to attend these Blue Christmas Services for the soul:

- *Friday, December 21 at 7 p.m.
@ Westminster Presbyterian - St. Louis
(5300 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112)
- *Saturday, December 22 at 3 p.m.
@ Westminster Presbyterian—Belleville
(1419 N 17th St, Belleville, IL 62226)

Prayer for Peace

God of life and God of hope,
we give you thanks and praise this season
as we gather to remember the birth of Jesus
who came as a witness to grace,
who proclaimed peace
did justice, lived love,
and walked humbly with you.

In his name, we pray for peace and healing
wherever your world is broken,
wherever violence and injustice reign
wherever your children are in pain.
We ask that we might follow Jesus faithfully
and so become answers to our prayers
for peace on earth,
goodwill for all people,
and wholeness and wellbeing for all creation.
Amen.

- Mark Koenig

Coordinator, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

Christmas Joy Offering

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot. As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

Please give generously by:

- Giving in offering through Sunday, Dec. 23rd
 - Texting JOY to 20222 to give \$10
 - Or visiting:
presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

Monthly Scripture

"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

"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

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- John 3:16

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- Romans 15:13

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

- Luke 2:14

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

- James 1:17

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

- 1 Timothy 1: 15—17

Isaiah 58: Buy-A-Bird

Isaiah 58 Ministries will be celebrating 25 years of Buy-A-Bird this year which provides holiday meals in our community. Each generous donation of \$25 will provide 1 Christmas meal for a family in need. Isaiah 58 depends on donations to make the holidays bountiful for families who are less fortunate.

To make a donation,
visit: www.i58ministries.org,

or send a check with the memo line: "BAB XXV"
Payable to: Isaiah 58 Ministries,
2149 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104

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. Amen.

Room at the Inn Volunteers

Let's face it: homelessness is a huge problem, and no one person can do much to solve it.

But any of the volunteers at our host congregations can tell you that one person can make a real difference in the life of a homeless person. By making a special dinner or chatting with a young mother or playing with a child, our volunteers show our homeless clients that they care. That's an important message at any time but means even more when you're at your most vulnerable. Room at the Inn operates with nearly 60 locations in St. Louis County.

However, most of these locations are in use only one night a month. It is an uncommon structure, and it is one of Room at the Inn's greatest strengths! Those participating within our presbytery are Calvary, First–St. Louis, First–Kirkwood, First–Ferguson, and Glendale Presbyterian.

To learn how you can volunteer this holiday season, call the shelter staff at:
(314) 209-9198

or the administrative staff at:
(314) 209-9181

"Where Do You Look?"

...Your level of joy at Christmas is directly related to where you look. We learn from the magi that there are wrong and right places to look for Christmas. They started by looking in the wrong place. They looked where their own human reasoning said they should look. The star indicated the birth of a new king in Israel. The magi went where kings should be born - to the palace of Herod the Great in the capital city of Jerusalem. But what a mistake that was! When Herod heard of the birth of a new king, he jealously sought to destroy him.

The magi looked in the right place when they looked to God. The trip to Jerusalem was not a total loss. While there they discovered where they should have looked in the first place: the Bible. The scribes in Jerusalem said that, according to the prophet Micah, the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. With this new information, they looked again at the star and followed it to Bethlehem until it stood over the house where the child Jesus lived.

We, too, are tempted to look for joy at Christmas in the wrong places. We think by getting or giving the right gift we will be satisfied. We imagine that being with family will be joyful. All these can easily disappoint us. You may not be able to afford the right gift for a loved one. Family members may be missing from your holiday celebration. If you are looking to these things for joy, you may be left with a feeling of disillusionment. So this Christmas, give yourself: give your time to your family; give your compassion to the hurting; give your forgiveness to the isolated. When you look for the right thing and look in the right places, you will have joy at Christmas.

- Jeff Griffis

from "Christmas sermon series: God's Greatest Gift"

December Birthdays

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

New Horizons' Calendar

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	26 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	27 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	28 5:30am Together We Can 8:30am Mission Sewing	29 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	30 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	1 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct. 12:00pm Hanging of the Greens
2 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	3 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	4 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	5 5:30am Together We Can 8:30am Mission Sewing	6 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	7 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	8 PEO (JH) 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
9 Called Congregation Meeting 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Mission Mitg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	10 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	11 11:00am PW Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	12 5:30am Together We Can 8:30am Mission Sewing 6:30pm Session Mitg	13 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	14 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	15 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
16 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Deacon Mitg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	17 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	18 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	19 5:30am Together We Can 8:30am Mission Sewing	20 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	21 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	22 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
23 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	24 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH) 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	26 5:30am Together We Can 8:30am Mission Sewing	27 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH)	28 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	29 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
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