

LIGHT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Presbyterian PATHS December Edition



"Prepare the Way For the Lord"



Mark's Gospel tells us that God sent John the Baptist...Jesus' cousin...as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. John was "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness"...preparing the way for the Lord...making his paths straight. John was "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". He set up his pulpit in the wilderness, and the people came from everywhere to hear him. They came from the little towns and villages. But people also came from the big city of Jerusalem to hear John preach.

They didn't have to do that. They had it all...priests...Levites...Pharisees...Rabbis...you name it! For the Jewish people, Jerusalem was the center of the universe.

Why would the people of Jerusalem go out into the middle of nowhere to hear John preach? They went because he was a prophet... a great prophet. It had been centuries since Israel had heard a great prophet, and the people were hungry to hear one. Prophets tell the truth. Prophets lead people in the right direction. So the people went by the thousands into the desert to hear what John had to say. He called people to real repentance. He called them to confess their sins. He called them to turn around and face the other direction.

He called them to let God set the direction for their lives... even if it was going to cost them. John was right. They came and listened. They repented and were baptized.

When they went home, they were different people. John had changed their lives. Let me restate that. GOD had changed their lives. But John did something else as well.

He proclaimed: "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit". The one who was to come was Jesus. Like John, Jesus came calling people to repent. He calls US to repent. He calls us to be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus has baptized us, not only with water, but with the Holy Spirit...God's Spirit.

We have believed Jesus, and he has changed our lives. The message from John the Baptist is still speaking to us today. We need to listen, and hear what those messages still say to us every day "Prepare the way for the Lord... make his paths straight... Repent... the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together... for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Amen

Pastor Bud

Dreams for Teens

It's that special time of year and your donations to the Dreams for Teens local mission project are needed. Please send contributions to the Church office or plan to put your donation in the special envelopes that are in the pews. The Deacons will be collecting donations through Sunday, December 17th.

Thank you , The Deacons

We will be collecting for the Christmas Joy

Offering Dec. 10th through the 31st



Events!



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Elaine Ransom who was the winner of the quilt raffle. Thank you to all who bought chances. We raised \$250.00 for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

LAMPLIGHTERS

Lamplighters will be meeting on Sat. Dec. 16th at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. We will be having a recipe exchange. Please bring your favorite recipe, printed on a card, to share with others. You may also make it to share if you would like. Come and enjoy the food, fellowship, and fun.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Children's program is Dec. 17th with soup lunch following

CANTATA

The choir will be singing a cantata on Sunday, Dec. 10th, for our congregation during worship service in the morning. They will also be singing with the Methodist choir in the afternoon at 3:00pm at the Methodist church with a soup meal following.



December Birthdays

- 1 Joe Hargreaves
- 2 JoAnn Guenther
- 5 Addyson Stutzman, Emily Stutzman
- 13 Bob Rezac,
- 15 Natausha Holtz, , Clara Ransom
- 16 Chris Holtz
- 17 Emmett Clark
- 19 Pastor Tom
- 20 LaVern Bown, Chris Gabis
- 24 John White, Shirley Nightingale
- 29 Genessa Schilz,, Madison Mashek
- 30



Anniversaries

- 7 Chris & Jennifer Holtz
- 22 Tom & Priscilla Nightingale
- 27 Larry & Cheryl Nelson
- 28 Tom & Laura Naughton Waddell
- 30 Scott & Jane Easterly

Serving in December

lay readers
 3 & 10 Steve Mattoon
 17 & 24
 31

greeters Randy & Leslie Richards
usher Bret Whartman

communion servers
 3rd —Bill Struckmeyer,
 Fritz Guenther Jennifer Holtz
 Christmas Eve
 Jennifer Holtz, Callie Schilz,
 Carl Farmer, Leslie Richards

local church committee
 *Callie Schilz * Jennifer Holtz
 Becky Rezac Brian & Sheri Kurz
 Tom & Priscilla Nightingale
 Kent & Susan Talich
 Joe & Amber Talich

Advent Candle

Dec. 4— Thomas family
 10— Jones family
 17— Struckmeyer family
 24- Am.
 Pm - Whartman family

December Calendar of Events

Regular Sunday Schedule— 10:00am Worship with Sunday School during worship 11:00am Fellowship
 There will not be Sunday School on Dec. 24th or 31st.

- Choir is every Wednesday at 7PM!
- Java with Joe every Thur. at 9:00am
- Choir Cantata—Dec. 10th / also at Methodist church in pm.
- Christmas Program / December 17th. / Soup Lunch
- There will be service on the 24th in the morning at 10:00am
- Christmas Eve service 7:00pm
- Thank you to all who have returned their pledge cards for 2018



MERRY CHRISTMAS &
 HAPPY NEW YEAR

