

# Light Memorial Presbyterian Church

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## PATHS

## January Edition

*From the Pastor's Pen*

Psalm 80:15-18

*"Restore us O God of Hosts, show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the Son of Man you have made so strong for yourself. And so, we will never turn away from you. Give us life that we may call upon your name. Restore us, O God of Hosts, show the light of your countenance, & we shall be saved."*

At midnight on December 31, many people sing Auld Lang Syne, looking back emotionally for the year passed. At exactly 00:00:01, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, many people cheer and kiss someone they love. There are other New Year's traditions beyond food, drink, & big parties.

The Benedictines say, "Always, we begin again." Devout Jews say (phonetically), "L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerusalem..." or in English, "Next year, in Jerusalem." Allow me to suggest that we Presbyterian Christians adopt a similar practice: "This year, in Christ." The Benedictines understand that we always fall short of godliness. The Jews remember the bitterness and pain of being cut-off from God, and their lives as they had known them in exile. We too drift from the remembrances, practices, intentions and disciplines of our faith, as the holy days fade from our thinking & view.

However, whenever we truly spend an entire year "In Christ", living both in spirit and in truth, we will have rediscovered by first-hand experience what the apostles & disciples long knew: the Risen Christ has already returned, and is always present.

IF we are honest with ourselves, Christ's constant company can bring out a little modesty, a little introspection, a little hesitancy. In this hesitancy, inside of us, is the space for God. Saint Augustine called this space, a yearning of our hearts for our home, our place, our God-home. This space is never, ever going to be satisfied until it is filled by God. The hole may be experienced as "never measuring up", "never meeting Mr./Mrs. Right", "never settling down". The monastics call it "holy restlessness". This is a wildness of sorts, to be satisfied.

There is also quietness inside. Strength. This state allows us to take stock of ourselves: our resources & our will; hoping not to find ourselves lacking. And yet, we do lack. This is exactly the place that Spirit comes to heal & to fill. God provides the needed resources. God repairs the lack. God provides the place to start. God makes us clean, whole, acceptable, through our acceptance of Jesus. The one who is **always** coming into the world.

As we begin a new year, let us profoundly seek Christ, in others, in ourselves, & in the world. Let us conform ourselves to becoming the perfectly mature person God planned in our creation, the person we don't imagine because we don't hold still long enough to ask God or notice the empty space inside as a God-given gift. And, as always, may your every day of this coming year be blessed.

Pastor Mary Jo

## New Addresses

Emmett Clark has moved. His new address is : Troy Manor  
200 Thompson Dr. #606  
Troy, MO. 63379

Jean Twarling has also moved. Her new address is: Legacy Terrace  
5700 Fremont Apt 132  
Lincoln, NE 6850

The Gills are in there new home: James & Cynthia Gills  
143 Mission St.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

They will all be greatly missed and we wish them well.

## Birthdays

1. Bob Deaver
6. Jean Twarling
8. Dominick Russ
9. Tom Nightingale, Emily Gill  
Rylan Swope
20. Leslie Richards
23. Bill Struckmeyer
29. Sharon Hargeaves
30. Emerson Ransom
31. Eloise Wilson

### ANNIVERSARY'S

16. Joe & Sharon Hargreaves
26. Roger & Marj Jorgenson

## January Calendar of Events

- Jan 1-Happy New Year!!  
Jan. 6- Ordination & Installation of new Elders and Deacons  
Jan. 12- Men's Breakfast- 8:00am / undecorate church  
Jan. 15- Session - 6:00 pm  
Jan. 20- Congregational Meeting after worship  
Choir Wednesday nights @ 6:30pm, bells @ 7:15pm  
Donuts Thursday @ 9:00am

## Serving in January

### Layreaders'

6 & 13 Judy Pohl  
20 & 27 Cindy Payne

### Greeter's

Shirlee Calahan

### Usher's

Tom Nightingale

### Communion servers (9<sup>th</sup>)

### Church committee\*

Clara Benisek  
Sharon Hargreaves  
Janet Volkmer  
Chris Kromberg  
Sandy White



A German Shepherd, Doberman and a Cat have died.

All three are faced with God who wants to know what they believe in.

The German Shepherd says: "I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master."

"Good", says God, "then sit down on my right side."

"Doberman, what do you believe in?" Asks God. The Doberman answers: "I believe in the love, care and protection of my master." "Aha," said God, "you sit to my left."

Then he looks at the Cat, and asks, "And what do you believe in?"

The Cat then answers: "I believe you're sitting in my seat."

(This would be Pastor Mary Jo's cat!!!!)

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is shown through them.

John 17: 10