



January



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Pastor's Notes for January 2021: A Resolution for Epiphany

Epiphany: a) a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way;
b) a Christian festival held on January 6 in honor of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ. (Webster's Dictionary)

Resolution: the act of finding an answer or solution to a conflict, problem, etc. : the act of resolving something (Webster's Dictionary)



The church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 - the time when "wise men from the East" came to worship the Christ child. With their appearance, the Christmas season once again comes to its grand ending and we enter the **Season of Epiphany**. This is, as Webster's defines above: a time to begin to understand something in a new or very clear way.

This time is also, for many, a time of making (and usually breaking!) "resolutions" - defined as: solutions to a problem or conflict. For some this could include healthier eating habits, regular exercise, joining a gym - or simply committing oneself to a new and better way of living.

All these epiphanies and resolutions can be a lot to keep track of! So let me offer a combination package: **Make a resolution to have an epiphany!**

That is, resolve yourself to take time to discover at least one new understanding or insight into your faith. This may be done in a variety of ways. Try:

- Exercising your time in Bible study – on your own or better – in a group. Try our Inductive Bible Studies! It is fun, informative - and those who attend are growing in faith and Bible knowledge. Join us!
- Taking full advantage of your membership at "Christ's Gym" – Church is the place where we regularly exercise our faith in community together. If you've been away for a while – come back and let's discover together – through the Word and Sacrament – new insights into our faith and get "pumped" for the ways the Spirit is moving and shaking us.
- Giving it all you got – Stewardship is an essential part of church life and growth. Maybe you've resolved to increasing in your financial giving in 2021? But, it is not only funds that are needed – time, talent and energy is needed too! How might you resolve to give of yourself this year?

All these ways and more will help you discover anew the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life and in the church. I encourage us all to let Christ speak new insights into our lives during this time of Epiphany as we resolve to follow him all the days of our lives.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Mark



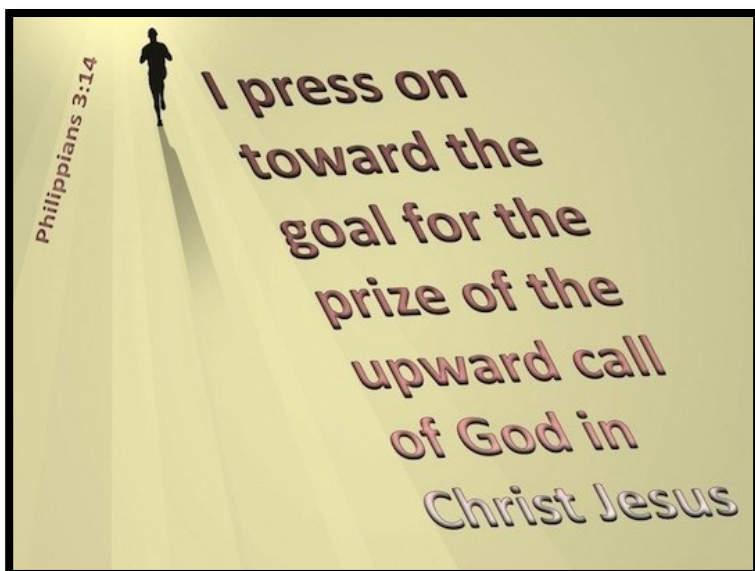
UNITED in HEALING PRAYERS for 2021

Friends, we all know 2020 was a year like no other for many reasons. Not the least cause for 2020's uniqueness was of course a global pandemic. It was right around this time last year that the first whispers of the coronavirus were beginning to be heard. Here now, a year later, there is hope on the horizon for moving forward. I give God thanks for this hope and pray every day for the healing of the world.

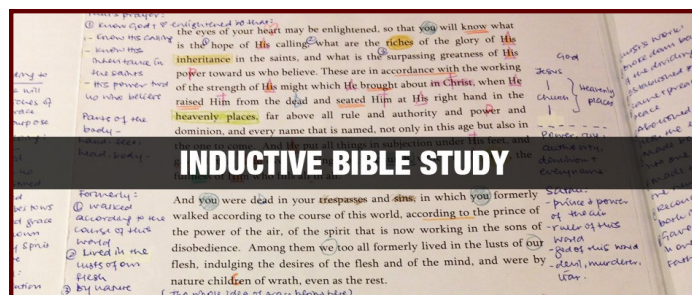
My prayers are not only for healing from COVID, though, but for the many hurts and wounds acquired in the past year. These have come from angry rhetoric and socio-political wrangling, racial injustice, violence on our streets and boardwalks, disease in our bodies and relational dis-ease, injustice inflicted on the least of these and more.

As we move into a new year – let me encourage us to be united in prayer - asking God for healing in our lives, in the lives of those we love, for the world and for our fellow human beings. Let us pray that the COVID vaccinations will work and all will feel safer and more confident in daily living. Let us pray for our nation to move forward under new leadership and with a renewed commitment to unity. Let us pray for all voices to be heard and all people to be seen. Let us pray for advancements in science and medicine to overcome all disease. Let us pray for peace in families, in relationships, in homes and on the streets and between every nation north to south, west to east.

And let us pray that “*forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, we all may press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*” Amen.



Spiritual Growth!



Inductive Bible Study—A Unique Approach to Reading, Studying and Experiencing the Scriptures

Where: Taylor Hall

When: Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm or Fridays 10-11:30am

Date: Friends - all are invited to gather in Taylor Hall – masks on, keeping distance around the tables, please – learning to not only read the Bible, but glean its richest blessings for our lives through this simple, yet powerful way of slowing down and really engaging with the words we read.

Come Buckingham – bring your favorite Bible and your heart wide open for all that God has to say to us in this time and place! And please feel free to bring a family member or friend.



- | | |
|------|--|
| 1/1 | Brandon Kulyk
Tyler Kulyk |
| 1/2 | JOE Scukanec |
| 1/3 | LAURA Black |
| 1/8 | MITCHELL David |
| 1/14 | LARRY Nickell |
| 1/16 | Myra Cropper
Hugh Thomas Cropper
Miles Vocke |
| 1/17 | JOAN Townsend |
| 1/21 | Erika Cook |
| 1/24 | LOIS Davis
KATHRYN Gaddis |
| 1/26 | Ashley Eschenburgh |



Looks like January wasn't a good month for weddings!!

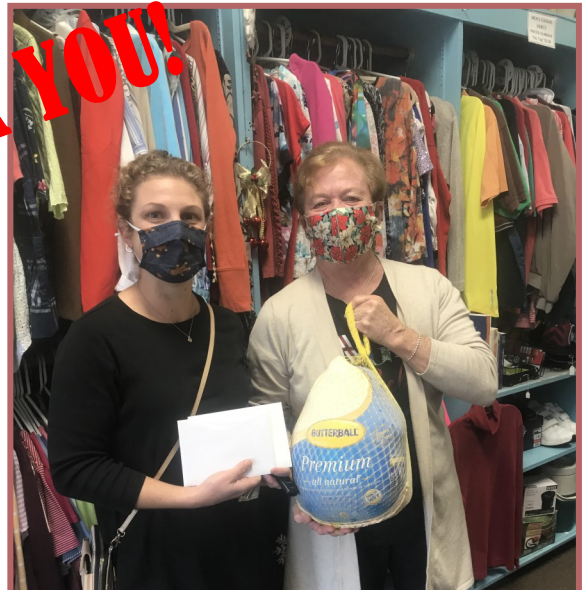


**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

What a wonderful end to 2020 with such great family events! Thank you to everyone for supporting our youth throughout 2020, we are looking forward to an awesome 2021!!!! Throughout the month of December families participated in the Sheep Trail through Berlin finding sheep in the stores and entering to win prizes each week. Thank you to all the Berlin businesses for participating and helping this to be such a wonderful event for all to enjoy. So many wonderful prizes were donated from the businesses. Families came together on the 18th to participate and watch the children perform the Nativity Pageant. It was VERY cold, but the kids and Pastor Mark did a terrific job!! We will definitely be adding this to our annual events. The family Christmas Eve service was a perfect example of a "Messy Church" family service. The kids loved making their drums and playing them during the service. We are all excited to convert S'more Time with Jesus to Messy Church in 2021. As always anyone who would like to get involved and help the youth in their spiritual growth are always welcome, it is amazing to see your own growth occur when helping others!

We cannot thank everyone enough for helping in so many ways with the OCES Backpack Buddies Mission project. So many have participated in so many ways donating Turkeys and Hams for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner, cooking food for those families unable to cook their own meals, packing and delivering food each week while schools have been closed, donating coupons to help stretch each dollar and the monetary donations to keep these kids fed each week!

On December 23rd, we delivered a special Christmas dinner to each family consisting of ham, green bean casserole, mac and cheese, rolls, slice and bake cookies, hot dogs, bread, sliced cheese and fresh fruits. Through donations we were able to provide a small gift to each child with playdoh, an art set, hats, gloves, socks, toothbrushes, and a gift card to Food Lion for the families. A special thank you to the Berlin Fire Department for donating food to these families and the Blessing box. Also, a special thank you to Helen and the Church mouse for the donation of a turkey and gift cards. It is so awesome to see so many from the community joining together and helping our church with our community missions. If anyone would like to help in any way, please contact Lindsay or any Christian Ed committee member!





Thank you to everyone for donating wrapped toys to help families at Buckingham Elementary school have a wonderful Christmas. Special thank you to the Carols for sorting and delivering all those gifts to the school. Also, thank you to those who donated used shoes to be delivered to those in need all around the world through the GotShoes? Organization. The donation of these shoes also helped Abby with her medical bill as she continues with treatments.

During the month of January, we will be collecting canned goods for the Souper Bowl of caring. The cans collected will help fill the Blessing Box!



**Thank you for
helping to keep Our
Blessing Box Full!**

*blessed
to give*



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

The Saga of the Blue Piano

I recall from my long ago youth that there were two fancy upright pianos at church, one much more elaborate than the other. I believe the latter was a Stieff piano, made by the highly regarded Charles M. Stieff Company of Baltimore. The Trustees have deliberated for years about how to dispose of a blue piano located upstairs in the Annex. I couldn't get over anyone painting a mahogany piano blue and fervently hoped it was not the piano I so fondly remembered. Jason Parker photographed the blue piano and to my relief it was not the Stieff instrument. Nevertheless, the front legs are ornate and the top front panel is carved in a scroll pattern so I appealed to Carol Rose for an opinion. Carol was the pianist when opening Sunday School exercises used to be held in Kortright Chapel (then known as the *big Sunday School room*). She was able to confirm the blue piano was not the elaborate instrument she played before everyone dispersed to their individual classes. Carol believes the blue piano was formerly located in Taylor Hall and is the one on which she took piano lessons.

I'm saddened the piano that remains at church was painted blue but cheered it was not the Stieff piano; hopefully that one resides in someone's home as a cherished possession.

I wish before painting a piano that restoration had been considered and we would have a fine playable antique in use today. Sadly, the cost of professionally refinishing and restoring the blue piano is now prohibitive and it's destined to be demolished. Although items may be currently out of fashion, I suggest before taking any drastic steps we consider their possible future use and value.

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Lynne



Church DEACONS

Your Deacons in Action... with some help from our friends!

A big THANK YOU to the Deacons and former Deacons that contributed goodies to be included in our Deacon bags, thank you! We spent a fun day Saturday, December 19th filling the bags to be delivered to 20 of our shut-ins and seniors. The date worked really well as we also delivered wonderful meals prepared by the Congregational Life committee of ham and all the fixings. Unfortunately the visits were brief, but so nice to be able to keep in touch with members.

All the "angels" were divided between the two families and delivered to Buckingham Elementary. We were not allowed into the school, but were met at the door by some very appreciative staff members. Please know that you made a difference to some children in our community this Christmas.

Charlie and Barbara again made the trip to the Samaritan Shelter, this time on Christmas Eve. They delivered the makings for a Christmas dinner for a total of 15, residents and staff. We sent a large ham, some of the let overs donated by Congregational Life, fresh vegetables and fruits, along with our usual bread, four gallons of milk and six dozen eggs. All the "hearts" from the tree that were brought back to church were also delivered. Again, thank you for picking up supplies and donating them to help the Shelter help others.

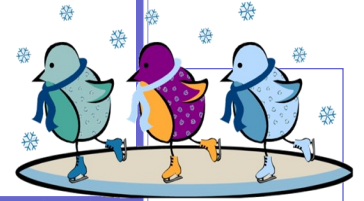
With some of the changes in government policies, we are now getting requests for more assistance. Please be aware that before any funds are distributed to folks requesting help, Carol Rose does her very best to ascertain that the request and need is valid. Again, thank you to the folks that designate the Deacons on their checks; fundraising opportunities were very limited this year.

Your 2020 Deacons, Debi Cook, Gloria Gubosh, Charlie Herpen, Tammy Nickell, Carol Rose, Evelyn Warren and Carol Neal





JANUARY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne." ~ Robert Burns, <i>Auld Lang Syne</i></p>					1	2
					<p><i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i></p>	
3	4 Share & Care 6:30pm	5 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm Session 6pm	6 Epiphany of the Lord Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	7 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord— Communion Sunday	11 Share & Care 6:30pm	12 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	13 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	14 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	15 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon	16
17	18 Share & Care 6:30pm	19 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	20 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	21 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	22 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon	23
24	25 Share & Care 6:30pm	26 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	27 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	28 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	29 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon	30
31	<p><i>Here's to the blessing of the year, Here's to the friends we hold so dear, To peace on earth, both far and near.</i></p>					



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2020



HUGH & SUSAN CROPPER

Memory of

Dorothy H. Taylor

THE GUBOSH FAMILY

Memory of

Michael Xavier Gubosh

JESSE & SHERI LYNCH

Memory of

Charles H. Lynch, Sr. & Mary Louise Taylor Lynch

Charles H. Lynch, Jr. & Betty Crabtree Lynch

Thomas Taylor Lynch, Sr.

FRED & CAROL NEAL

Memory of

Loved Ones

Honor of

Our Children & Grandchildren

GEORGE PHILLIPS

Memory of

S. Glen Phillips

George O. Phillips III

Mark Hammond

Brett Hammond

CHARLON M. PRUITT

Memory of

John Q. Pruitt

Milton E & Irene W. Moore

KAREN VAN ROEKEL

Memory of

Betty Van Roekel

Margaret Porter

HERSHEL & CAROL ROSE

Memory of

Dalmas & Gladys Parker

Mamie Parker

Morris & Evelyn Hall

Mildred Ann Villani

Nevada Hastings

Honor of

Buckingham's Sunday School Children & Youth Class

PATRICIA ROUCH

Memory of

David Rouch

Honor of

Grandsons: Adam, David, Matthew, William, & Ryan

JOE & CINDY SCUKANEC

Memory of

John & Barbara Thomas

KIRK, CAROL, & ANDY STEIN

Memory of

Molly Stein

Wally Stein

SUSAN J. TODD

Memory of

Bob & Bertha Jackson

TOM & LYNDA TRUITT

Memory of

Dewey Davis,

Connie Davis,

Wayne Truitt

Myrtle Truitt

JR Truitt

Bob Wilkins

Toby (our pet)

