

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The Higher Ground

The Parkesburg Baptist Church Newsletter

Volume 31

January 2018



*"The good life is a process, not a state of being.
It is a direction not a destination."*

- Carl Rogers -

Dear friends,

How do people change? As we enter a new year, many of us make resolutions to change certain aspects of our lives, but few are successful at lasting change. As someone who desires to grow and to see others grow, I am always interested in what motivates people to truly change. On a recent episode of *60 Minutes*, I was deeply moved by one man's dramatic transformation from a violent white supremacist – a terrorist, in his own words -- to a man of peace, who loves those he had once wanted to destroy. Christian Picciolini grew up in an Italian immigrant family, and was often bullied because of it, as well as for his short stature. At 16, when a neighbor “took him into the fold” of an extremist organization, he was taught that all of his problems were caused by Jews, African-Americans, and other immigrant groups. In that group, he also found power and a sense of belonging. He became a leader in his white supremacist group. But now, years later, he works on multiple fronts to help free others from the bondage of these violent hate groups. He helped create a group called *Life After Hate*, and has written two books about his experiences.

So what was the catalyst for this drastic change? One day he and his friends chased an African-American man out of a restaurant and started beating him up. While Picciolini was viciously kicking him, his gaze met the swollen eye of his victim. And that was it. Not only did he walk away from this violent encounter, but he walked away from hate, racism, and white supremacy, into a life of actively opposing those evil views. I was shocked when he gave such a “simple” answer (of course, there was a lot more to actually walking out that change in his life). But in that moment, “the enemy” became a human being, and that changed everything.

I've never beaten anyone up physically, but I've done a number on some folks in my own head. It is so easy to demonize a person or group (see them as ALL BAD... so that I can see myself as ALL GOOD!) if we never take the time to listen to them or try to see things from their perspective. I once heard someone say, “Everyone has one more fact in their favor.” One more thing we don't know about – but if we did, we wouldn't be so quick to judge. The way we find out about that one more fact is by listening – really listening, with an intent to truly understand. It is not surprising that Theologian Paul Tillich said, “The first duty of love is to listen.” Since we have been commanded to love others, we are commanded also to listen to them. It is a challenge, and it is hard work – but without it, there can be no healing of hearts, no healing of relationships and no healing of nations. So try looking somebody in the eye this week; try listening before reacting or judging. It may surprise you what will change.

Grace & peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary".

Notes From the Combined Board Meeting on Dec. 14, 2017:

In early December, our denomination (ABC-USA) gave us a very fun opportunity. THEY gave US \$300 to purchase gifts for children in our churches in Puerto Rico. The only “catch” was that they wanted pictures of our folks buying & packing the boxes, and then deliver them to Valley Forge. We only had about a week to do this, so we didn’t have time to recruit church folks. But our CE Board jumped in and with the help of our Sunday school



children and youth group over 25 shoeboxes were filled with toys for children in Puerto Rico! What a great Mission Project. Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith from our Region (ABCOPAD) will be taking the gifts down the first week of January (in Puerto Rico, they exchange gifts on “Three Kings Day,” on January 6th.) This is in addition to the 26 boxes that were sent to the children on the South Dakota Indian Reservation where our Mission Team worked this past summer.

Don’t forget the water jug in the church. Money is still being collected for water in Puerto Rico.

The church is looking into training 10 of our church members in the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE). program led by Pastor Beideman, who is a certified trainer. The training provides resources to prepare for the possibility of an active shooter situation in the church. Pastor Mary will provide more information and a sign-up sheet soon.

A huge thank you to the leaders and youth for an awesome Live Nativity.

Please continue your prayers for all on our prayer list and the community, as well as praying for our church at 9:11 a.m. & p.m.

The Board meeting ended in a united prayer time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Palmer, Diaconate Secretary

SUNDAY NURSERY

9:00 AM—12:00 PM
Cathy Pisch

JUNIOR CHURCH SCHEDULE

Jan. 7	Deanna Blevins	Jan. 14	No Junior Church
Jan. 21	Deanna Blevins	Jan. 28	No Junior Church

PARABLE QUEST

Hey Kids ages 3 to 12, it is time for Parable Quest. Singing, dinner, Bible stories and games can be enjoyed by all. Hope to see you there. Don't forget friends are always welcome! From 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

1/10/2018

1/24/2018

Any questions? Please call Diane Palmer 610-593-2846 or Tamara Oswald 610-857-3314.

BYF SCHEDULE

Sunday,	Jan. 7th	5-7 pm
Sunday,	Jan. 21st	5-7 pm
Sunday,	Jan. 28th	5-7 pm

PARKESBURG COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

We (PBC) collect food each week for both the Octorara Area Food Cupboard and for our church's own pantry. Please place all donations on the table closest to the alley door or in the basket at the front entrance. If you have questions, see Deanna or Brianna Blevins. We thank you for your continued support for this mission.

Please add the following items to your food cupboard list: paper towels, napkins, feminine products (pads w/wings), toilet paper, tissues, bath soap, laundry soap, body lotion, toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, trash bags (all sizes), dish liquid. They are currently looking for non-perishable donations of the following: meaty soup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, applesauce, canned fruit, canned beans, peanut butter & jelly.

Bible Word Search: In the Beginning

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle each letter of the words you find. Put the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*. (Answer will be in next months newsletter)

T T H O R N S F I G A R D E N
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O I S E E D W A T E R I U H R
M S E V E N T H I S T L E S L
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N N P E C S R E S T E D V F I
E E E H H I N O I T A E R C U
A G N A E W A N I M A L S F R
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T M A A U G N I N N I G E B E
H I M M B E E G D E L W O N K
A F R A I D E C I O V S M O T
D E T P M E T A E R C I E M D
R E P L E H L I G H T K R A D
N D O O F M O O N Y B I R D S

Adam, Afraid, Animals,
Beginning, Birds,
Cherubim, Create,
Creation, Dark, Disobeyed,
Driven, Earth, Enmity, Evil,
Fig, Fish, Flaming sword,
Food, Fruit, Garden,
Genesis, Good, Heaven,
Helper, Image, Knowledge,
Leaves, Light, Moon, Old
Testament, Plants, Rested,
Seas, Seed, Serpent,
Seventh, Sun, Tempted,
Thistles, Thorns, Tree,
Voice, Water, Wise, Woman

Answer to the December's puzzle:

Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each Sunday the service is recorded. If you would like a CD copy of the service, please sign notepad at the sound board or see Todd Allen. You can also listen to the service on our website.

Digital Newsletter: If you currently do not receive this newsletter via email and wish to do so, please contact the church office and provide your email address or email info@parkesburgbaptist.org

Octorara Area Food Cupboard

In addition to food donations, the OAFC also supplies toiletries to families in need. Currently they are looking for :

toothpaste; tooth brushes; shampoos, deodorants,
bath soap, toilet paper, tissues and bandaids.

They have none of these items in stock. Please help if possible. Thank you

CONGRATULATIONS

Parkesburg Baptist Church would like to congratulate Roy "BJ" Engel for graduating from Millersville University in December with a degree in Graphic Design & Entrepreneurship. We want to wish him all the best for the future.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts, as well as their help, kindness and love in the past year. Everyone has made my job so much easier.

Thank you again,
Denise Tomey, Church Secretary



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 9 am and will meet at the Dutchway Restaurant. They had 9 in attendance at the December meeting.

Meet a few of our members of the Men's Fellowship. Left to Right, Terry Daily, Barry Simmons, Burt Graybeal, Ken Skiles, Don Jacke, Brian Welsh, Barry Aberts and we know Bob Reynolds was there (it may be his hand).

They are all ways looking for new people to come out and join them in fellowship



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have Sunday school classes for everyone in the entire family. Come check one out! Our Sunday school classes and teachers are

- *Nursery (birth - 2 years old) - Cathy Pisch
- *Pre-K & Kindergarten (3-5 years old) - Michelle Myles
- *1st & 2nd Grade - Brianna Blevins
- *3rd - 6th Grade - Megan Clarke
- *7th - 12th Grade - Dustin & Amanda King
- *Adult Class - Dana Young
- *2nd Adult Class - TBD

*If you would like an additional adult class and would like to teach it or have a suggestion for a book/topic please see Ginny Schempp or Debbie Desmond. We are

PARKESBURG BAPTIST PRAYER REQUESTS

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Rob Vann
Pam & Jose Munoz, Bob Whitus, Julie Geyer
Grace King
Gary Wetzel & Mr. & Mrs. Baxter
John Rode, Fred Weller & Diane Parsons,
Adam Reed & Willy Lally
Dot Haltermen, Elmer Arment, Diane & Josh Pearl,
Patsy & Wayne Fuller
Christy Meneely, Linda Lucas, Bruce Marker
Ginger Weise
Earl Taylor
Rick & Jen Turner & Taylor Carroll
Andy Tascano & family, Lloyd Groff & Sandy Pepperday
Norman Robinson, Eddie Chapman, grandson Joshua
Lou Guardiani
Mark Smith, Kim MacLeod
Son Rusty, Bill Grier, April Hankinson, Jerry Wheeler,
niece Nicole, Pam Snyder, nephew Chad
Barbara Holcomb
Mable McCoy, Glen McCoy & Larry Swiegart
Damon Scott IV, Damon Scott Jr., Debbie Hess,
David Young, Devon Malloy, Rachael Young
Mandy Wagner

REQUESTERS

Barry & Doris Aberts
Debby Allen
Jeanie Barnett
Tim Clarke

Bobbi Cross

Thelma Gillespie
Rev. Dan & Sue MacDonald
Nan Needham
Ozzy & Tamara Oswald
Charlie & Diane Palmer
Joy Pepperday
Loretta Robinson
Tim & Laurie Robinson
LaVelle Smith

Michelle Snyder
Judy Swisher
Fred & Nancy Tyson

Dana & Rusty Young
George Young

SHUT INS: Clint English, Verna Hanscom, Dorothy Major, Florence Ratcliff, Betty Smith, LaVelle Smith, Reitzel Swaim, Robert Taylor, Lynn Vanderhoof

MILITARY PERSONNEL: Cpt. Matthew Fesak, Sgt. 1stC Christopher Gage, Troy McBride, Joe Moore, Maj. Todd Moulder, SRA Andrew O'Hop, Lt. Col., Bryan O'Neill, Erick Potter, Nathan Singer, GySgt. Matthew Wertz



**MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR THE
MONTH**

**GySgt. Matthew Wertz
414 Old Meadow Road
Bluffton, SC 29901**

Light in the Midst of Darkness: ABHMS publishes Christmas letter from Puerto Rico

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/18/17)—American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has published on its website a [Christmas letter](#) to American Baptists from Dr. Josué D. Gómez-Menéndez, administrator of Academia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo in San Juan, and incoming president of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA.

Gómez-Menéndez writes:

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in every way it could. The biggest natural disaster to tear over our tropical island in many decades, the storm took so much from us.

But it also showed us that it's good to be part of a family—a great family joining with us on this journey of healing. American Baptist family is one of the gifts that Maria gave to us.

At the start of the Advent season, my family received a gift—a string of battery-operated Christmas lights—from the Rev. Judy Fackenthal, president of American Baptist Churches USA. This detail is significant because my home remains without electricity. As I write, it has been 75 days since Maria hit, and we continue to use a generator.

My family hung the Christmas lights at the door between the living room and the terrace. Now, at night, when everything is dark, everyone sees our Christmas spirit.

Last Sunday I awoke early for a brief jog before Sunday worship. I went to the sink, but nothing came out! The situation felt hopeless—75 days since Maria's landfall, and it's still like day zero. No electricity and no water. It's frustrating, unfair and wrong.

As I walked down the stairs, I saw our Christmas lights. I remembered that, for the last 2,000 years, a light has shown a path to hope for those still living in darkness—for the wise man, for the ones who work in the fields, for all those who are still looking!

This holiday season, more than ever, I give God glory for the promise of light in the darkness—the darkness that still envelopes so much of my homeland, Puerto Rico.

Thank you, American Baptist family, for living this journey with us—for sharing goods, praying, texting, calling and for your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing that help us so much. But, more importantly, thank you for being part of our family.

May the blessing of light be yours, my sisters and brothers in Christ, in this holiest of seasons.

Dr. Josué D. Gómez-Menéndez



*January's
Birthday
Corner*

Jan. 3rd	Carol English Chris Markward Jeanette Welsh
Jan. 4th	Megan Clarke
Jan. 7th	Helena Fulmer Holly Wertz
Jan. 9th Jan. 10th	Debbie Desmond Jansen Schempp Kevin Wilson, II
Jan. 12th	Noah Mercado
Jan. 14th Jan. 16th Jan. 19th	Fred Tyson, Sr. Rev. Dan MacDonald Ryan Clarke
Jan. 21st Jan. 24th	S. Jamison Schempp Todd Allen Mary Louise Henry Kerrie Morrow
Jan. 27th	Sandra Cook Charlene Pluck
Jan. 28th Jan. 29th	Sally Lawson Kyle Kabakjian

The Parkesburg Baptist Church would like to wish everyone a very Happy Birthday!

Important Dates & Times

Jan. 8th	7:00pm	Ruth Circle
Jan. 9th	12:30pm 7:00pm	Faith Circle Hope Circle
Jan. 10th	9:00 am	Men's Fellowship
Jan. 11th	7:00 pm	Deacon & Trustee meeting
Jan. 15th		Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 28th		Annual Business meeting

Happy Anniversary

To the following couples:

Bryan & Pam Hugill - Jan 3rd

Fred & Nancy Tyson - Jan 14th

Corby & Candace Decker - Jan 18th

Don & Pat Jacke - Jan 31st

Directory Updates:

Please make the following changes to your directory:

Tim Houck has a new phone number: 610-235-7394

Please change Susan Valente to Susan Engel.. She has changed her last name.

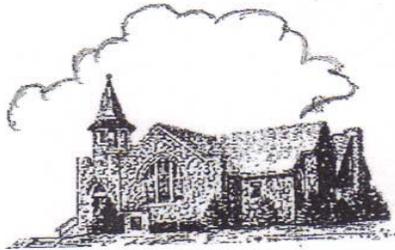
January 2018

Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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7 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Communion Service 5-7pm BYF meets	8 7pm Ruth Circle meets in Crane Hall	9 12:30pm Faith Circle meets in Crane Hall 7pm Hope Circle meets in Crane Hall	10 5-6:30 pm Parable Quest 9am Men's Fellowship at Dutchway Restaruant	11 6pm Lion's Club meets in Crane Hall 7pm Deacon & Trustee mtg	12	13																																																																																																																
14 8 am Christian Ed Board meets 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 5-8:30 PBC Night at The Point	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																
21 5-7pm BYF meets 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	22	23	24 5-6:30pm Parable Quest	25 6pm Lion's Club meets in Crane Hall	26	27																																																																																																																
28 5-7pm BYF meets 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Annual Busn. Meeting after Worship Service	29	30	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2017</th> <th colspan="7">Feb 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Dec 2017							Feb 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2					1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28				31													
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Parkesburg Baptist Church
103 West Street
Parkesburg, PA 19365

The Higher Ground



Place
Stamp
Here

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January



The Mission of the Parkesburg Baptist Church is to accept and treat everyone as Jesus would; bring people to a personal relationship with Him; and disciple all believers to be Christ's witnesses to the world.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 139:14, NIV