

# “THE GRAPEVINE”

## JANUARY~2020

### DEACONS BARREL ITEM:

#### “TOILETRIES”

(Soaps, deodorants, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, etc.)



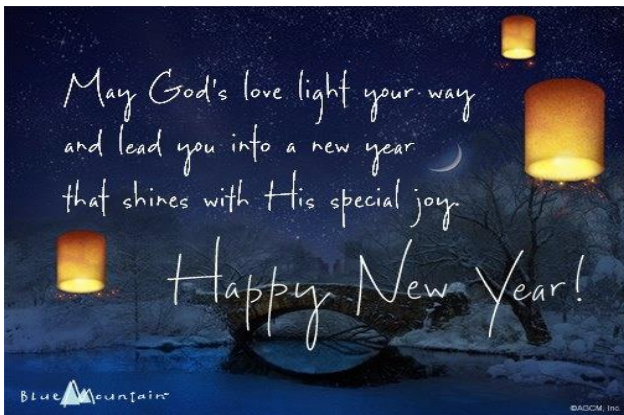
### Flower Calendar:

JANUARY 5  
Rick & Liz Hanson

JANUARY 12  
Dave Weisenberger

JANUARY 19  
Ray & Jean Shipman

JANUARY 26  
Greg & Bonny McCreary



### EVENTS

**New Year's Day – Office Closed**  
Wednesday, January 1

**Annual Reports Due**  
Friday, January 3

**Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, January 5 immediately after worship

Feeding the Hungry  
Tuesday, January 7 @ 515pm

**Examination/ Ordination/ Installation**  
(For all incoming Deacons & Elders)  
Sunday, January 12

**Newsletter Deadline**  
Wednesday, January 15

**Men's Breakfast**  
Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8am

**Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. – Office Closed**  
Monday, January 20

**T.I.M Workday**  
Saturday, January 25 @ 10am – 12pm

**Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, January 26 @ 1130am

**Newsletter Folding Crew**  
Wednesday, January 29 @ 845am

# “PD’s Pickings”

Once again we find ourselves on the doorstep of another New Year.

A lot can happen in a year, can’t it? Sometimes we find ourselves looking back over a year amazed at how much has happened, or how much has changed. In other ways we look back over that same year and remark “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” The strange paradox is that both are true at once.

The Teacher in Ecclesiastes often remarks “there is nothing new under the sun.” This is his poetic way of describing the realm we all inhabit on Planet Earth. Perhaps the wisest mere mortal that ever lived, he notices that no matter how much things change the fundamentals of our existence are remarkably common to us all, regardless our station or circumstances. The basic truths of our existence remain the same....including our mortality. Death is the great equalizer.

It would be easy to find this depressing. Yet, I do not believe the Teacher in Ecclesiastes was trying to be morbid. His quest was for wisdom, and he found it in pushing the implications of our mortality as far as they could go. The Teacher asks us to step back and see what really matters. He reminds us that these things we think matter so much are temporary. Living “under the sun,” bound by a beginning and an end, and lacking most of the control we think we have, we are forced to reevaluate what really matters. The wisest, richest, and most powerful person of his time looked at all he had and did, and concluded it was still ultimately meaningless *in and of its self*. In this he found contentment and freedom.

So... what DOES matter then? The Teacher gives us a test: one that an old friend and mentor of mine used to call “The 10,000 Year Test.” Perhaps you’ve heard me mention it before. It’s very simple: ask yourself, “this thing I worry about, whatever I think is so important, whether a source of joy, hope, or fear... will it matter in 10,000 years?” Not much passes that test, does it? But *some* things do: the things that have eternal implications. And in that truth we find Ecclesiastes is actually a doorway to hope as the Teacher strips away things we thought mattered, and points out what *actually* does.

As we consider our resolutions and turn the page to 2020—a new year, and a new decade—let us focus on what matters most. Chief among those is our relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and our mission to proclaim His reconciliation to the world in word and deed—the revolution that began with baby Jesus lying in a feeding trough.

Things we are right and wrong about? Mistakes we have made or will make? Things we’ve done? Things done to us? Impeachment? Traffic on the Altamont? ...Not so much.

I hope your Christmas was blessed, even if hard, and that you both shared and experienced the love of Jesus through each other. May your 2020 be filled with what truly matters “under the sun.”


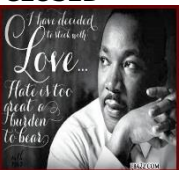
Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Doug". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

2020

JANUARY

2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			OFFICE CLOSED 1 	2 7pm Choir & Quilters	3 Annual Reports Due!	4
10am Worship/ Sunday School 5  1130am Congregational Meeting  5pm IC	6  Epiphany of the Lord	7  515pm Feeding the Hungry	8  7pm Finance	9  545pm Mission  7pm Choir & Quilters	10	10am Evangelism 11
830am 12 Examination of Officers  10am Worship/ Sunday School  1130 Deacons Meeting  5pm IC	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16  7pm Choir & Quilters	17	8am Men's Breakfast 18
10am Worship/ Sunday School 19  5pm IC	OFFICE CLOSED 20 	21  7pm Session	22	23  7pm Choir & Quilters	24	10am T.I.M Workday 25
10am Worship/ Sunday School 26  ANNUAL MEETING  5pm IC	27	28	29 845am Newsletter Folding Crew	30  7pm Choir & Quilters	31	



- 2- Kathleen Buffleben
- 5- Jean Shipman
- 10- Matt Clarke
- 11- Joseph Weisenberger
- 13- Cristian Lamas
- 16- Joshua Clarke  
Rich Clinton
- 18 - Isabel Vaishampayan
- 20- Allen Brown
- 23- Gladys Smith
- 29 - Jacob Palmer

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:**



- 12- Ralph & Cindy Palmer
- 22- Ray & Jean Shipman



**ATTENTION :**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CO-CHAIRS:**

**ALL ANNUAL REPORTS MUST BE  
EMAILED TO JILL IN THE CHURCH  
OFFICE BY:**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**EMAIL TO:**

**[JILL@TRACYFIRSTPRES.COM](mailto:JILL@TRACYFIRSTPRES.COM)**

**Wednesday Bible Study Info:**

Lynda McCormick's bible study will start on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10am in the Lea Lounge. Bible Study book is TBA.



**Budget Report**

**General Fund**

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Bal.Forward			\$41,690.56
Income:	\$12,385.00	\$129,383.98	
Expenses:	\$15,403.46	<u>\$138,291.01</u>	
Balance:			\$32,783.56
Special Fund:			\$36,583.42
In/OutFund:			\$18,069.62
Memorial Fund:			
Undesignated:		\$ 5,100.00	
Designated:		<u>\$ 11,355.73</u>	
Balance:			\$16,455.73
New Site Fund:			
Balance:			\$ 8,175.44
Synod Savings Account			
Youth Reserve		\$ 1,071.21	
Manse Fund		61.60	
Julia Sturtevant Fund		<u>\$ 26,696.30</u>	
Matching Challenge		\$ 44,510.94	
Balance:			\$73,340.05

