



CONTACT January 2017



What Goes Up, Must Come Down



Please stay after
worship on January 8
to help un-decorate
the sanctuary from the
holidays.

All help is welcome!

Thank you to ALL
who make our Advent
Season
so beautiful and
meaningful!

*Please submit your
information for
CONTACT
by the 15th
of each month!*

*Maryann Bruce,
Church Office Manager
and CONTACT Editor*

Pastor's Letter

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. A few days before Christmas, he became upset with his little five-year-old daughter. She had used up his roll of expensive gold wrapping paper he needed to wrap gifts for his benefactors. The intensity of his feeling grew on Christmas Eve when he saw that all of the paper was used to decorate one shoebox. Wondering where the child had gotten the money to purchase the contents added more concern.



Rev. Jim Yoder

The next morning his daughter, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!" As he opened the present, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

When he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and once again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

I believe that's true for each of us, too. We have been given boxes of unconditional love from those around us – family, friends, and sometimes strangers.

When we think of the Christ Child, our hearts should dance with joy and thanksgiving. Christmas brings the year to a close. Somewhere deep down inside, we know that this little child will lead us into new year that fresh and exciting. "Fast away the old year passes" as we gleefully burst into the new. What will the new look like for us at Church of the Redeemer? Regardless, we carry with us a gold-wrapped box of unconditional love from God that we need to share with all we meet.

USHER CAPTAIN FOR JANUARY - Sign Up on Bulletin Board

- Jan. 1 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Lay Reader - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Bill Baker
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Jan. 8 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - Richard and Shirley Conrad
 Offering Counter - Richard Conrad
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Jan. 15 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Lay Reader - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Sharon Thomas
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Jan. 22 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Nancy Zeigler
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Jan. 29 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - Richard and Shirley Conrad
 Offering Counter - Richard Conrad
 Altar Flower Sponsor - P. Mongold & S. Thomas

USHER CAPTAIN FOR FEBRUARY - Sign Up on Bulletin Board

- Feb. 5 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Sharon Thomas
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Feb. 12 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Lay Reader - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Nancy Zeigler
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Feb. 19 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Richard Conrad
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

- Feb. 26 Greeter - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Ushers - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**
 Offering Counter - Sharon Thomas
 Altar Flower Sponsor - **Sign Up on Bulletin Board**

Altar Guilds for January

Sign Up on Bulletin Board for:

- January 1
- January 8
- January 15
- January 22
- January 29

REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN!

A card or visit will brighten her day and warm your heart!

Mary Grunden
 VibraLife Senior Living
 707 Shepherdstown Rd. #615
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2017 sign up sheet to sponsor the altar flowers is posted in the hallway across from the office. Sign up to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Important Message to Greeters and Ushers

If you are scheduled to usher or greet on a particular Sunday, and you are not available, **PLEASE CALL** the usher captain (**not the church office**) for that month, as soon as possible, so that they can find a replacement for you.

Usher Captains - please let the church office know of the change so that the correct name can be placed in the bulletin. Ushers and greeters, plan to arrive at 9AM the Sunday you are to serve.



Year End Statements

If you would like your 2016 giving statement, please let Maryann know in the office if you would like an emailed copy or a hard copy and she will process it immediately.



Happy New Year

Please join us to celebrate communion on Sunday, January 1, 2017 in observance of Epiphany.



What Goes Up, Must Come Down

Please stay after worship on January 8 to help un-decorate the sanctuary from the holidays. All help is welcome!



Heads Up!

NOW - January 8 we are collecting items for a "Warm Christmas Tree" where we decorate a tree with warm hats, ear muffs, socks, gloves and scarves. So as you see sales, please stock up so others can keep warm and bring them to Redeemer. Items will be donated to the LGBT Center of Central PA.

A Note from Miriam Worley

"I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a 'New and Improved' New Year!"

I am requesting that in January, February and March, you would all consider saving your loose change at home, then on the first Sunday in April, you will see the orange watering can placed at the rear of the sanctuary for you to deposit your collected change. Monies donated will go toward the



landscaping costs of our garden and pond, sprucing it up for Easter.



Thank you for considering assisting in maintaining the beauty of our garden and pond."

-- Miriam Worley

2017

Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are now available for pick up at the rear of the sanctuary. Call the church office if you would like your envelopes mailed to you.



Please use them throughout the year and remember to be specific on any miscellaneous offerings (using the space on the outside of the envelope) so we know what account to credit.

2017 Sign-Up Sheets Now Posted



Just a reminder that you can now sign up for a specific Sunday in which you would like to be a Greeter, Usher, Usher Captain, Lay Reader, and Altar Guild! The sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office and will work like the weekly flower sign up sheet. This way the church office does not "assign you" for a Sunday in which you may have other plans. A description of the duty is posted above each sign up sheet.

You can also sponsor the newsletter, CONTACT, and the altar flowers for 2017.

11-17-16 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance: Jonathan Bell, Tom Bell, Josh Bruaw, and Jan Herr. Previous months minutes approved per Contact review.

The main topic of the Meeting was to discuss the 2017 budget. In reviewing 2016 budget, it appears much will be unchanged other than taxes (related to sewage tax) and pastor's compensation package.

Old Business:

Lock box installation is contingent on review of redeemer' building plan; we are still looking for these.

New Business;

Pastor Jim had shared some information with Josh related to fund raising. This 'scrip program' was a big success at his church in Myerstown. This is a program of individuals buying gifts cards from numerous businesses with the church ultimately getting a percentage of the cost. Josh will ask Jim to speak about the program at the annual congregational meeting.

Rev Richard Gordon, a pastor in our association spoke to Pastor Jim about Redeemer getting involved with a program called "Gather the Spirit". This is a program thru the Unitarian Universalist Church in Harrisburg, gathering personal and household items for those in need in Harrisburg. As we pointed out we are already involved with such a program thru Love INC which benefits those in our own Hershey/Hummelstown area.

Pastor Jim asked Leadership to think about the following:
1. Develop a pastor's profile and move forward with it. We have the details; we will review some sample profiles.

2. Communicate church responsibilities; specifically who talks to and gets in touch with whom.

Beginning Saturday, 11/19, Maryann will be out of the office and will return Monday, 11/28.

Meeting adjourned with plan for 12/15 meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jan Herr, Leadership Team Secretary*

12-15-16 Leadership Team Minutes

Those in attendance: Pastor Jim Yoder, Josh Bruaw, Tom Bell, and Nancy Zeigler

Pastor Jim opened the meeting with devotions and prayer based on Luke 2:15-16. Haste in this context means with excitement and joy. What are people in this congregation doing with haste?

Pastor's report:

The church can apply at a reduced rate to a website called "Share point," giving leadership team members access to a shared site where we can post meeting agendas, etc., ahead of the meeting. Each of us can read posts and type responses, as an easier communication tool than email.

United Script (the fundraising tool) is now in the works. We have a contact who will assist new set ups. Jan Stong and Chelsea have agreed to be administrators of United Script for our congregation.

Treasurer's Report:

The budget was approved as read. Pastor Jim suggested a budget line of "Gifts in Kind," which would recognize the value of gifts of time and effort. The team discussed putting together a quarterly budget report for the congregation.

Old Business:

A transitional team needs to be established to develop the search and call process. This needs to be separate from the leadership team.

New Business:

Agreements are in place for snow removal, both for shoveling our sidewalks and clearing our parking lots.

Pastor Jim intends to send out an end-of-year communication to the congregation.

Tom Bell will get an external backup system for the office computer.

The Leadership Team discussed the need to educate the congregation about the interim process, especially having the congregation understand the half-time contract. Our building is very active, offering shelter to 300 people in daily and weekly meetings. We have fostered a sense of community for them, so what can we do to enliven a sense of community for our congregation as well?

The next leadership meeting is January 12th at 7 PM. Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Zeigler
on behalf of Jan Herr,
Leadership Team Secretary*



Reminder of Flowers on the Altar

Many of us are old hands at placing flowers on the altar to praise God, and to honor or remember loved ones. Some of us, however, may not know how to go about putting flowers on the altar, so this information will help.

- ◆ Sign up on the altar flower sign up sheet posted across from the church office; Write down if the flowers are placed: “In honor of. . . “ or “In memory of. . .”;
- ◆ Order from Royer’s on Chocolate Avenue (717-534-2834). You may use any florist, but Royer’s delivers to the church since they have a key (they do charge you a delivery fee however). Pay Royer’s directly when you place your order or give the church a check in the amount of your order;

- ◆ Make your own arrangements from cut flowers from your garden or the florist. Black liners for the bronze altar vases are either in the vases or in the closet behind the altar;
- ◆ Use living plants that you will then plant either in your own yard or in the church flower beds;
- ◆ Donate money to a specific church fund in honor/memory of your loved ones; on that Sunday silk flowers will be used on the altar, and your donation will be noted in the bulletin (just let the office know one week prior): Example - “In lieu of flowers, [your name] has made a donation to [your chosen fund] in honor/memory of [your loved one’s name].”

Thank you for honoring God in this beautiful way.



DivorceCare Support Group Set at Derry Church

DivorceCare, a 13-week support group designed to help adults recover from the pain and separation of divorce, will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm Thursdays from January 12 to April 6, 2017 at Derry Presbyterian Church, 248 East Derry Road, Hershey.

In addition, DivorceCare4Kids will be offered concurrently for children of participants, ages 5 to 12. This program is designed to help children in their recovery from the hurt of divorce. Child care is available on request for younger children.

DivorceCare is a nondenominational program that features biblical teaching, small group discussion, video seminars led by renowned experts on divorce and recovery topics, and a workbook to help participants explore topics in depth.

Each DivorceCare session is organized in two parts. During the first 30-40 minutes of the meeting, the group reviews the previous week’s topic and shares what is going on in each other’s lives before viewing the next video in the series featuring top experts on divorce and recovery topics. These videos contain valuable information about recovering from divorce and are produced in an interesting-to-watch television magazine format. Seminar topics will include anger, depression, loneliness, new relationships, financial survival, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Following the video, participants spend time discussing what was just presented and reinforce their understanding of the session using their workbooks in the upcoming week.

There is no cost to attend either program, but advance registration is requested; class size is limited. For information or to register, contact the Derry Church Office at 717-533-9667.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Love INC News

Expanding Hours for Increased Service - Beginning January 3rd, we will be open on Wednesdays 9am-2pm in addition to our current hours of Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday 9am-2pm. If you would be interested in serving as an office volunteer, please call Michelle at the Love INC office or fill out the application online at our website listed below.

Personal Care Closet Needs - As always, please consider donating an item or two to the Personal Care Closet of Love INC to help out a person in need in the Hershey area. A donation bin is located in the end classroom at Redeemer (by the water fountain). Current needs are: Tissues; Laundry Detergent; Toilet Paper; and Shampoo.

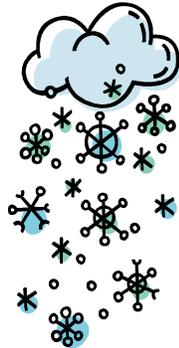
Love INC of Greater Hershey,
245 E. Derry Road, Hershey, PA 17033
717-835-0101 www.loveincgreaterhershey.org

Welcome to our Building!



We are a church with open walls, and we welcome all the groups who use our facilities! Mindful of energy costs and the call to all of us to care for the earth and its resources, Church of the Redeemer needs your help! We want to encourage each person who uses the building to do some simple things to help us use our energy resources more efficiently and maintain our building for the future.

1. As you enter or exit the building, ensure that the door closes and latches behind you.
2. Inside the building, be sure to close the doors to the room in which you are meeting as you leave. This is especially important for rooms where building thermostats are located, so that the drafts from outside doors do not trigger the heat (in winter) when not needed.
3. Use lighting efficiently in the building; turn off restroom or hallway lights when leaving an area.
4. Turn off water faucets completely, and report running toilets or other water issues to the office.



Weather Closing Announcement



We are registered with WGAL to announce any closing at Redeemer due to an emergency or weather. Closures are usually based on the other churches in Hershey.

CONTACT Helpline provides *free*, confidential listening, Health and Human Services



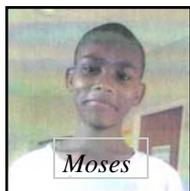
information and referral 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for over 40 years. CONTACT Helpline is looking for volunteers to answer calls. Training will be provided and shifts are flexible. Please consider helping this community organization and gain rewarding work!

Questions? Call Kelly at 717-652-4400 or visit www.contacthelpline.org.

Child Sponsorship Coffee After Worship



The Weekly Child Sponsorship Coffee offers hot, brewed Fair Trade coffee, by donation, during fellowship time, after worship. Funds raised go towards our three children Redeemer has sponsored since 2010 through Global Ministries.



Moses



Sangay



Metetwa

So grab your favorite re-usable mug and enjoy your cup of Joe knowing that funds go toward helping Sangay (from India), Moses (from Jamaica), and Metetwa (from Zimbabwe)!



Giant and Karns Grocery Stores offers non-profit organizations an opportunity to raise money by us selling their gift cards!



We sell Giant and Karns Gift Cards the first and third Sunday of every month, and get to keep 5% of each card sold! Remember, that we need to sell ALL the cards for a particular store, then pay them for the cards we sold (minus our 5% - of course) before we can pre-order more cards to sell.



Used Stamp Collection

Why do we collect stamps that have already gone through the mail and have been stamped by the post office or “cancelled?” We collect them for the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home in Palmyra. A stamp dealer comes once a month to the Home and buys the stamps for collectors around the world. Last year the

Brethren Home made over \$10,000 and that money is put toward unbudgeted items at the Home!

So each day, after you have gone through your mail, just clip off the used, actual stamp (no pre-printed stamp that some businesses use) from the right hand corner. Put them in the basket in the narthex/lobby of the church, above coat rack labeled “stamps.”



Goodwill Donations

Being more in line with the mission of Redeemer, we donate clothing and household items to Goodwill in Palmyra. Their Mission Statement: Goodwill works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work. A labeled bin is in the end classroom, near the water fountain, on the main level.

Recycle Your Old Magazines!



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA is collecting magazines, catalogues, and any glossy paper to be recycled for cash. Money earned will help support the Ronald McDonald House of Hershey. Magazines and glossy paper can be deposited in the green containers at:

- * Ronald McDonald House, 745 West Governor Road, Hershey
- * Hershey Entertainment Offices, across from Chocolate World entrance
- * Klick-Lewis Dealership, Palmyra Cherry Street between Duke and Prince (behind dealership)
- * McDonald's, 745 E. Cumberland Street, Lebanon

Hershey Food Bank



The Hershey Food Bank and Community Outreach would like to remind families who have encountered challenging economic times that we are here to help. Our purpose is to serve the Derry Township community by providing food and assistance with the temporary needs of families and individuals in financial distress, no matter how large or small your family may be.

Examples of “in need” include:

- if your children receive free or subsidized school lunches
- if you are on the SNAP program
- if you lost your job or have a low paying job
- if you are a single mom or dad going through difficult times
- if you are on low fixed income, disability or receive medical assistance
- if you are on Section 8 housing program

The Food Bank is open to serve clients during five different time periods each month but also works with families that have conflicting schedules. Our families receive fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, meat, juices and other staples to feed the entire family. We also have diapers, baby food, paper and personal care products.

We also provide other services such as emergency utility and rent assistance for established food bank clients, one on one budgeting classes, and referrals to other nonprofits and government agencies for needs we are not able to meet.

Current needs are: Canned meats and stews, Cereal, Chunky soups, Canned fruits/Applesauce, Baked Beans, Tuna, Pancake mix & syrup, Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, Paper Towels, Diapers (sizes 4 thru 6), Adult Depends (med & lg), Shampoo, Laundry soap, and Toothpaste.

The Hershey Food Bank has been serving the Derry Township community for almost 50 years and is located at 120 E. Derry Road. Contact us at hersheyfoodbank@verizon.net or call us at 717-520-3143 to schedule an appointment.

January Redeemer Happenings



January Birthdays

09-Brittany Scharpf
 12-Matthew Brown
 12-Lana Worley
 14-Larry Wagner
 15-Ethel Curran
 18-Barbara Crawford
 18-Phyllis Phelps
 19-Pierce Sube
 28-Chris Shaffer
 30-Jan Stong
 31-Nancy Boerger

CONTACT Newsletter



Thank you to everyone who sponsored our newsletter, CONTACT in 2016! Almost 30 are mailed to those without email and/or who live a far, so by sponsoring the CONTACT, it helps us offset the cost of the stamps. The 2017 sponsorship list is now on the bulletin board across from the office, so please sign up now! Only \$35



January Baptism Birthdays

04-Jean Wagner (1931)
 20-Mary Grunden (1924)



Profit from Selling Grocery Gift Cards



Our profit, for 2016
 (as of newsletter print date of 12-23),
 is **\$1,330.20!**

Preparing for Worship in January

The following scripture lessons are provided for those who want to prepare for worship by reading and reflecting during the preceding week. Each week will have scripture from the Old Testament, a Psalm, from the New Testament, and a Gospel.



January 1, 2017

New Year's Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

January 8, 2017

The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, 2017

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 22, 2017

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2017

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Worship-915am Sunday School 1045am AA - 3pm	2 AA - noon OA - 730 pm	3 WW - 930 am AA - noon AA - 630 pm	4 AA - noon AA - 630 pm	5 AA - noon WW - 6 pm OA - 730 pm	6  EPIPHANY AA - noon	7 <i>Orthodox Christmas</i>  AA - 7 am AA - noon
8 Worship-915am <i>Un-Decorate Sanctuary</i> Sunday School 1045am AA - 3pm	9 AA - noon OA - 730 pm	10 WW - 930 am AA - noon AA - 630 pm VOP - 645 pm	11 AA - noon AA - 630 pm Choir - 645 pm	12 AA - noon WW - 6 pm Leadership Team 7 pm OA - 730 pm	13 AA - noon	14 AA - 7 am AA - noon
15 Worship-915am Sunday School 1045am AA - 3pm	16 <i>MLK Day</i>  <i>Church Office Closed</i> AA - noon OA - 730 pm	17 WW - 930 am AA - noon AA - 630 pm VOP - 645 pm	18 AA - noon AA - 630 pm Choir - 645 pm	19 AA - noon WW - 6 pm OA - 730 pm	20 AA - noon	21 AA - 7 am AA - noon
22 Worship-915am Sunday School 1045am AA - 3pm	23 AA - noon OA - 730 pm	24 WW - 930 am AA - noon AA - 630 pm VOP - 645 pm	25 AA - noon AA - 630 pm Choir - 645 pm	26 AA - noon WW - 6 pm OA - 730 pm	27 AA - noon	28 AA - 7 am AA - noon
29 Worship-915am Sunday School 1045am AA - 3pm	30 AA - noon OA - 730 pm	31 WW - 930 am AA - noon AA - 630 pm VOP - 645 pm				

January 2017 CONTACT



Church of the Redeemer UCC
500 W. Chocolate Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL